

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

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WEEKLY

National coaches to advise AIS

AT LONG LAST COMMONSENSE!



National Coach Eddie Thomson with former England star Trevor Brooking and a young fan

BY TOM ANDERSON

LATE last week, the future of soccer in this country took a giant step forward, following a top level meeting in Canberra, between national coach Eddie Thomson, his assistant Les Scheinflug and AIS coaches Ron Smith and Steve O'Connor.

The outcome of this meeting brought forth a decision, which should have been in operation, since the AIS was formed.

It is, from now on, national coach Thomson and his assistant Scheinflug, will have a say in all the young players chosen to become AIS students.

And, as thorough professionals, with the national interest in mind, the future of soccer at the AIS has made a big change for the better.

The ASF duo also talked at length with their AIS counterparts, on the soccer training program at the elite sporting institute.

The end result was excellent, with a cordial agreement forthcoming from both sides of the fence.

This important agreement will also have a bearing on Australia's chances in the 1993 World Youth Championships to be held here.

Without any doubt the nucleus of the Young Socceroo side will come from NSL clubs.

But the 'fringe' players will now be at the AIS and will be given every opportunity to stake their claim for a place in the squad for the world titles.

Yesterday, national coach Eddie Thomson was extremely happy with the outcome of his meeting with the AIS officials.

"It was a very cordial meeting and we were all on the same wavelength," Thomson said.

"There seems to have been a great deal of misunderstanding in the past between the national body and the AIS, over the selection of students, but this has now been cleared up to both our advantage."

Thomson and Scheinflug have also had, and are continuing to have a series of meetings with the NSL coaches throughout Australia.

Blacktown v Canberra NSW Grand Final Page 2

What ABSW says . . .

WITH the NSL blast-off almost upon us, soccer in Australia must close ranks and unite in an effort to boost the status of the code as never before.

A number of common goals must be fulfilled, to capture the imagination of the sportsfans.

For it's not only the converted who must be catered for.

New fans and families must be wooed to our NSL stadiums.

Throughout the winter months, the various State Federations have pulled out all the stops, to promote their competitions.

Their efforts have to be congratulated.

There are some major goals which must be attained during the coming NSL season.

It must always be remembered that football is a game, and must remain so.

Although the difference between victory and defeat is great, losing is not a catastrophe, and not the end of the world.

The spirit of fair play must be present at all times during the season.

Referees will be shouldered with the greatest responsibility in this area and

'COMMON GOALS'

must be compelled to enforce fair play on the field at all times.

Any acts of violence on the terraces must be eliminated.

Also, no political interference must be allowed to influence any part of the NSL competition.

Politics have been a blight on the code for too long and must be kept in the boordroom if the desired success is to be forthcoming.

Soccer is the greatest game in the world and the time has come for it to reach its full potential here in this great country of ours.

THE EDITOR

The last step on road to Grand Final

1ST GRADE FINAL

BLACKTOWN CITY 3
SUTHERLAND 0

THE pressure of a long season and the difficulty of motivating themselves after winning the Premiership told on Sutherland who could not stop Blacktown City advancing to the Grand Final, with a polished 3-0 victory.

The Sharks put up a better show than the lack-lustre performance they produced in going down to Canberra two weeks earlier, but things did not go well for them on the day and they never recovered from the goal

they conceded to a free kick in the 16th minute which put Blacktown in front.

The Demons were well marshalled at the back by Craig Mason and particularly well served by their very experienced keeper Mike Gibson.

These two ensured that when Darryl Sharp converged on a cross from Grant Bard in the second minute, there was no room to get in a telling header.

Bard had done well to get into the box and his pinpoint cross to the far post from the right side was going to test the defence, but Sharp ran out of room, under pressure from the two Demons.

An innocuous push in the back by Geoff Bis-

caya on Blacktown's Geoff Gunning some 35 metres out led to the first goal in the 16th minute.

Damon Langan, back in the side after a dislocated shoulder kept him sidelined for a couple of weeks, completely deceived Paul Dart in the Sutherland goal.

In a swirling breeze which dogged the players throughout the game, Langan's direct shot from the left curling towards goal, struck the underside of the bar, rebounded off the right post and bounced over the line before Dart or a defender could react.

Sutherland had to go forward then and Robbie O'Shea looked the most likely to bring his side level.

In the 23rd minute O'Shea's free kick was well directed to the far post and after a number of shots had been fired in and Gibson had made at least one save the ball was twice cleared off the Blacktown line.

That could have been the turning point, as Sutherland never went closer, although conceding that they peppered Mike Gibson's goal a number of times, but the burly custodian was able to turn everything around the post that he could not catch first time.

Robbie Sellar, out of action for some weeks, made a surprise reappearance in his familiar left back spot, allowing David Ensor to venture forward to assist the attack, the make-shift tactic didn't come off, Ensor being unable to penetrate.

He did have one good shot saved by Gibson in the 40th minute when Sellar's free kick from half way booted to the far post fell in his path and he struck a firm low drive goalwards which could have got past a lesser keeper.

Gibson also turned a Robbie O'Shea volley hit from 40 metres and heading for the bottom right corner around the sticks.

Blacktown played with poise and Stan Suman could have made it 2-0 for them in the 32nd when he sent Geoff Gunning on his way, but the shot was wide under pressure from the Sut-

herland defence.

Blacktown did go further in front in the 59th minute, turning defence into attack very quickly, Mike Gibson collecting a free kick from Sutherland and in a single movement sending Paul Bourke away to carve his way through the centre.

Bourke was good enough to shake off the defence and bury a low shot in the bottom corner to rock Sutherland to the foundations.

Bourke, who had a quiet first half, stormed through the defence again in the 63rd slipped the ball to Eddie Lees and the final pass to Stan Suman allowed the tall striker time to steady and shoot into the roof of the net.

Substitute John Gibson presented Bourke with a further opportunity in the 68th, when his cross from the byline was well delivered, but Bourke put his effort wide of the post.

Paul Dart saved from Gunning in the 79th after Lees and Suman had done the spade work and the last ten minutes saw Sutherland desperate to salvage something from the game, fighters to the last.

Michael Lardis got into the box and sent Bard in, but the ace marksman pushed an easy chance wide from

two metres.

Then Bard himself, on the right, produced a superb shot in the 83rd which Gibson again pushed around the post for his fourth such save on the day.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Mike Gibson, Damon Langan, Dominic Longo, Craig Mason, Peter Bennett (Hayden Begbie 85), Eddie Lees, Craig Will-

iams, Scott Xuereb (John Gibson 63), Paul Bourke, Stan Suman, Geoff Gunning.

SUTHERLAND: Paul Dart, Dave Edmunds, Robbie Sellar, Mike O'Shea, Geoff Biscaya, Robbie O'Shea, Michael Lardis, Harry Christodoulou, Grant Bard, Darryl Sharp (Tony Brandtman 79), Dave Ensor (Tony Brampton 67). REFEREE: John McConnell.

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCKET

WEEKLY

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UNDER-19 FINAL

SUTHERLAND SHIRE 1
BLACKTOWN CITY 0

SUTHERLAND scraped through to the Grand Final just as they had done in each of their earlier appearances, having won on penalties against both Warrington Freshwater and BHP Austral.

Blacktown had beaten Canberra 8-1 two weeks earlier, yet found themselves faced with another game to win another title with that side in the Grand Final.

SUTHERLAND: Nigel Noffke, Rob Liddell, Phillip Walker, Luke Jones, Mark Allingham (Nathan Harris 86), Chris Condolee, John Massarotti, Simon Murray, Scott Gould (Grant McDonald 46) Scott Connors, Brendan Grall.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Claudio Carravaggio, Jason Mitsud, Gary Comerford, Jason Connolly, Steve Tyerman (Nathan McKernan 72), Hayden Begbie, Martin Abi Arrage, Scott McArdle, Troy Shipley, Ian Hunter, Matthew Heighway.
REFEREE: Brett Hugo.

BY ALASTAIR RUSSELL

DULWICH Hill scraped through the preliminary final playoff against Mt Pritchard by the skin of the teeth winning 5-4 on penalties after the side remained scoreless after extra time.

The match was tight and deadlocked after two hours of uncompromising football. Kevin Farrar, Dulwich Hill's keeper becoming the hero after twice denying Andrew Juhart's spot-kick during the shootout.

While Dulwich Hill dominated proceedings, their lack of polish in front of goal was again evident and Steven Baggott and company almost snatched the final from under their noses.

In all honesty though, the giant killing Mt Pritchard met their command for the final half hour. Eddie Morison's long throw caught the Mt Pritchard defence napping but Norman Tome blasted over with the goal open after 66 minutes.

Dulwich Hill had the better of the exchanges in the first half, Mt Pritchard keeper, Ron Gaffney who charged into the box but his attempt was smothered by a brave save from Gisbourne in the 70th minute.

In the final minute substitute Dennis Duarte should have booted Dulwich Hill's passage to the grand final

ching onto a through ball from clever midfielder Carl Donoso, however, the striker wasted the chance hitting the ball across the face of the goal from a difficult angle.

Mt Pritchard's best chance of the first period fell to Leo Pintos a minute prior to the break, but Farrar was again smartly off his line to dive at the diminutive midfielder's feet.

The opening 15 minutes of the second stanza belonged to the under-dogs from Mt Pritchard, Baggott ran onto a loose ball after 61 minutes but blasted his effort over the bar.

In extra time Dulwich Hill looked the stronger of the two sides, Duffy's header landed on the line by Bryce Williams in the 104th minute.

Duffy looked to have scored the winner seven minutes from the end with a fine header, only for Gisbourne to produce a desperate leap to his left to save.

Baggott who gave 150 percent effort for Mt Pritchard almost stole the show two minutes from time, rounding his marker easily, but denied by a superb save from Farrar.

The shoot-out went Dulwich Hill's way and undeniably the better side made their way through to this Sunday's grand final showdown with Waverley, albeit by the skin of their teeth.

DULWICH HILL:
Farrar, Lira (Beres 25), Gaffney, Jebrael, Duffy, Donoso, Corapovski, Borges, Tome, Morson, Speranza (Duarte 77).

MT PRITCHARD:
Gisbourne, McEvoy, Daley, Williams, Driene, Coiro, Willis, Hatton, Baggott, Vanegas (Juhart 95), Pintos.



Meet the NSW Grand Finalists

THE big day has arrived at last and the crowds should flock to the Gabbie for a Spring afternoon of top quality soccer.

There are crack players on both sides and for those new to the State League let's have a look at how they are likely to line up.

CANBERRA METRO

'The Metros'
Red Shirts, White Trim,
White Shorts, Red
Trim, Blue Socks.

COACH: TOM SERMANNI

Highly respected former player in the Canberra team, who came from Marconi after leaving his native Scotland. At 36 has not long hung up his boots and is leaving job at the AIS to take up the position of Assistant coach to Mick Hickman at Sydney Olympic, a bold move for a man who has spent many years in Canberra and has built a tremendous reputation as a coach of the younger players.

1) PAUL JONES

Twenty-five years old Jones was understudy to Tony Giannasca until that player went overseas for the Student Games. The former AIS 'keeper is again showing the form that put him into the Australian side a few years ago and his technical ability is hard to fault.

2) DOUG MARCINA

Deceptively quick right back, 21, who loves to attack and was a product of the youth development programme.

Easy to spot with his pony tail.

3) STEVE VANZETTI

Once a forward, this 20 year old whose parents came from opposite halves of the globe, Italy and Zambia, has established himself in the left back spot now and, like Marcina, attacks down the flanks with relish. Brings to mind a Brazilian player in his appearance on the field.

4) JOHN KOCH

Taken over as skipper from the injured Andrew Young, this elegant and highly experienced Sydney Olympic sweeper is a man who demonstrates Canberra's commitment to total football. A danger when he moves forward, but always in control at the back.

5) MILADEN ROGIC

Very tall youngster and a newcomer in mid-season, who has quickly settled down as a First Grade player after

being pressed into service when Young and Zelic became unavailable. Not to be dismissed lightly with his aerial strength and sound defensive qualities.

6) ZORAN PRATEZINA

The only import in the side, this stylish 26 years old from Yugoslavia sometimes fails to stay the distance of a full game as he is notorious for covering extra territory and doing the work of two or more men in a game. Can score as well as set up goals and must be contained.

7) JOE GAGETTI

Industrious former Inter Monaro utility man, 26 years old Joe is much admired as a midfield workhorse by astute judges.

8) ANDY RAVANELLO

Flame haired striker with youth on his side, Ravanello is still only 18 and has many first grade games under his belt.

Prolific scorer in the youth team and now an established senior player who has the knack of popping up at just the right moment.

9) MICHAEL MUSITANO

Another to have been given his chance this season from the reserve ranks. Musitano is a tall young man who is on the verge of hitting peak form. Noted as a former schoolboy international.

10) TONY LEMEZINA

Errant striker who has had a spell with Apia after walking out on the old Canberra Croatia club last year when leading scorer.

As sharp as ever Lemezina is a big influence on his two younger partners up front, but at 23 is hardly a veteran himself.

11) STAN DUKIC

So-called 'old man' of the side, Dukic is only 27 but has been around, it seems, for ever.

He is a tireless worker on the wings and rarely misses a match.

Stocky in appearance, but nippy all the same, this is one man who is very hard to mark indeed, with his running off the ball a feature.

R/G/K TONY GIANNASCA

First choice 'keeper until he went overseas, 21 years old Giannasca is a top man to have in reserve and want this old spot back, sooner or later. He was with the Australian team that played in Syria.

12) PAUL BELTRAME

Has been featuring a

bit lately as a skilful midfielder who can get among the goals and is on loan from Adelaide club Campbelltown.

13) BRUCE GRASSICK

Returned to the State League side when injuries hit the club, this former Inter Monaro and Canberra Croatia player is a reliable cog in the Metro wheel.

14) DANIEL MACOR

Top striker with the youth team soon ready to claim a berth in a talent loaded first grade attack.

15) JASON SWAN

Twenty years old local product who has filled in regularly when injuries have left holes in midfield, but yet to command a regular spot in the side.

An attractive footballing side who sacrifice safety at the back in providing an entertaining brand of soccer, which is superb to watch when they are on song.

BLACKTOWN CITY

'The Demons'

White Shirts, Red and Black Trim, Black Shorts, Black and Red Socks

COACH: RON CORRY

Former Socceroo 'keeper who was a goal-keeper coach at Sydney Croatia, before moving on to coach the first grade team.

Took over near start of the 1990 season when

Tony Henderson left the club and under some pressure has stuck to his guns with the youth players under his wing to finish the season as the form team of the State League, with defeats rare in recent months.

1) MIKE GIBSON

Big man who has been a Socceroo under-study many times and was taken to St George from Penrith City where he first came to light in the NSL having started with Penrith United.

Outstanding player who, at 28, still has his best years in front of him as a 'keeper.

2) EDDIE LEES

Utility player, still only 18, who has matured quickly this year giving the club's Youth policy the stamp of approval. Always a danger in making moves into opposition territory.

3) DAMON LANGAN

Came from Melita and is a 19 years old defender who makes valuable contributions to set pieces. Recovered from a dislocated shoulder to score the vital first goal in the Final last week.

4) PETER BENNETT

Tough defender, only twenty and blessed with endless drive and enthusiasm, Bennett makes many attacking sorties for The Demons down the right side and is a hard man to dispossess.

5) CRAIG WILLIAMS

Another Melita player who is going great guns with his adopted team this year in the heart of the midfield.

6) CRAIG MASON

Consummate professional, the 35 years old midfielder, who has switched to sweeper with great aplomb, moved originally from Sheffield to join Newcastle KB United and later played with Marconi, Apia and Melita with much success. Captain who leads by example and a likely favourite for Player of the Year.

7) DARREN NORTHAM

An AIS prospect some years back, the son of Central Coast identity Bill Northam spent last year in Second Division with that club, before returning to the Demons this year. At 23 is a constructive full back, with talent to burn.

8) PAUL BOURKE

Young man who has justified the faith Ken Schembri had in bringing him from Apia where he was an Under-19 player. Still has plenty to learn, but does so quickly and rattled in his first State League goal on Saturday, after a polished second half display in midfield.

10) SCOTT XEUREB

May hold his place in the side after holding down a semi-permanent spot for much of the season.

11) GEOFF GUNNING

Very useful attacking left side player who can

operate anywhere on that side and is a nonsense tackler who knows his way to goal. Originally with Marconi and at 24 has much good soccer to come, a regular scorer throughout the season, his balding profile cannot disguise his zest for the game.

where up to sixteen players are vying for the eleven positions in the Grand Final team.

At 19 is another to prove the merits of the club's Youth policy.

R/G/K CLAUDIO CARRAVAGGIO

Just moved into the Under-19 ranks with the injury to Steve Mautone and proved in his recent appearance that he is a capable young custodian.

12) JOHN GIBSON

An AIS discovery

who has represented his country at several levels already and was with Blacktown earlier before venturing into the NSL with Croatia.

Has not been able to establish a regular place, missing some games through injury and illness, but an effective midfielder.

13) DOMINIC LONGO

Former AIS captain

who came from Juventus in Hobart to link up with Blacktown and is as steady as a rock. Sustained some rib damage last Sunday but expected to be fit in time.

14) JASON CONNOLLY

Nineteen years old Connolly is another utility player who was with Marconi and is a force in most attacking moves and close to breaking into the side for good.

15) RANDELL EASTHORPE

Disappointing South African born former Penrith City, Wollongong City and St George striker who is still only 25 and began his Australian career with

It will be a great day!

With its enhanced promotional approach this season the NSW Soccer Federation aims to give this year's Grand Final the highest public profile it has had for quite some time.

Never short of ideas these days, the organisers have not had the crowds they had hoped for, as many of the best supported clubs fell by the wayside early, some not even making the top five.

With a full broadcast of the big game from the Gabbie on Radio 2KY and the production of a lavishly illustrated programme covering the entire series for the first time, the future prospects of the Top Five games look rosy.

The added media attention can be built on in seasons to come and the scheduling of the Canberra v Blacktown game a week after the Rugby League season finisher is a smart move.

Given good weather all the supporters who have given the lead-up matches a miss to watch League or who have taken a weekend off, with the side they support out of contention, should flock to the well appointed Seven Hills ground for what promises to be a thrilling afternoon.

Two excellent footballing sides, both having missed the top premiership honour, are competing for the attractive prize money and the prestige of being named Champions.

It is a difficult game in which to pick the winners and the uncertainty about the outcome adds to the excitement.

Blacktown should feel

at home at The Gabbie, but lost out to Canberra Metro here in the Semi-final match 3-2.

Canberra had a fort-

night off after beating Sutherland, but The Demons have won both

games well since losing to Metro last time.

The solid defence of

Blacktown and tight-knit midfield should keep Canberra on their toes. Canberra are a good side in every department and their defence which has said goodbye to captain Andrew Young and sweeper Ned Zelic already this year is still pretty sound.

It is in attack that the capital city side holds the aces, not with standing the loss of Paul Foster a few weeks back.

They have Andy Ravanello in sharp touch, Tony Lemezina still a lurking danger and the support of Michael Musitano to make the job of these two easier.

With this side it is hard to know who a defence should look after as players like John Koch, Stan Dukic and Joe Gagetti are always willing to try something new.

Blacktown will rely on the strength of Geoff Gunning and the industry of Paul Bourke and Peter Bennett to propel them to victory.

It should be a memorable tussle.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION OFFICER



The NSW Soccer Federation seeks applications from suitable persons who wish to make a career in the development and promotion of soccer at junior and youth level in the schools system.

The successful applicant will have had a playing career at a high level in the sport, and be suitably qualified in being able to administer such a program.

The chosen person will co-ordinate a scheme involving the development officers of the leading soccer clubs.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY OCTOBER 4

Apply in writing to:

**THE GENERAL MANAGER
NSW SOCCER FEDERATION
235/257 MEURANTS LANE
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Local products do a marvellous job

BY PAUL GOODWIN

ONE of the success stories of the Sutherland Shire team this year has been the sound all round performances by the District's own products.

Geoff Biscaya, 24, is about as local as they come, having been born in Sutherland and educated at Port Hacking High School.

This 6'11" defender has drawn praise for his steady showings at the back in the centre of the Sharks' defence as well as creating a dangerous diversion every time he

comes up for the set-plays devised by club coach Bill Rigby.

Biscaya has a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the University of New South Wales and is now studying for a Masters under the patronage of his employers, Shell, where he is working as a chemical engineer.

Because of his studies and the recognition of a need to obtain qualifications and a career, some of the game's honours may have eluded the cultivated centre back.

Having started out age five with Sylvania Heights and gone on via the Kirrawee club to

play reps with Sutherland as a Under-10 and Under-11 player, Geoff shifted to St George for the Youth League years.

He was a Saint from Under-12 to Under-16 where he came under the influence of John Hedison, a man he credits with a great deal of his later success.

He was a NSW Under-12 to Under-17 representative player and captain of the NSW and Australian Schoolboys for the one year he spent with that side until HSC commitments intervened.

During this spell Biscaya was selected in the NSW State team which won the national cham-

pionships, the highlight of his soccer life before the Sutherland premiership came this season.

The 13 stone former St George player had a season with the NSL club until his studies took over and he had three years away from the game.

He continued to participate in other sports, of a less demanding nature, including membership of the Gymea Bay cricket club and a fairly active involvement in athletics, golf and squash.

With a further interest in computers, in which he loves to dabble and reading, some of it essential, Geoff has remained single, which is not necessarily a permanent situation, he hastens to point out.

Now in his third year with Sutherland after being enticed back to play with his former Port Hacking High School chum Darryl Sharp, Biscaya intends to complete his Masters' degree and then reach out for a second chance at NSL soccer in the next year or so.

One of the successes of the season was team captain and stopper Richard Buchanan, whose exploits in defence were highly rated by Jancev, along with right-back David Segreto.

Buchanan began his football life as a junior with Hills Independent, after which he had three seasons from age 17 with Baulkham Hills.

He had a call from Melita Eagles, where he made the first team regularly.

But the need for tertiary study signalled a temporary departure from football, and he has a metallurgical engineering degree and a position as a mechanical engineer to show for his trouble.

In their time at Melita the coaching duo of Dennis Hoggart and Jim Gallagher tried to win him back, but his big opportunity came with Rockdale Linden.

One of the club's big gains for the season was the securing of Tony Franken as goalkeeper.

His old club, St George, is on the sidelines at present, but he would be happy to rejoin them if they regain admittance to the National League otherwise would look elsewhere, perhaps Wollongong City, if the opportunity arose.

His advice to youngsters is sound: work on your skills by yourself whenever possible to keep up with your team-mates, as well as putting 100 per cent into group training sessions.

We are certain to hear a lot more of the name Geoff Biscaya, particularly if Sutherland can complete the double this season.



Sutherland's Geoff Biscaya.

Rockdale boss happy

Rockdale Linden coach Lube Jancev had good reason to be satisfied with his team's fourth position in the 1991 NSW State League First Division.

The team bowed out of the minor semi-final after being well beaten by Blacktown City, in what wasn't one of their better showings of a good year.

Quietly mannered Jancev came to the club from Melbourne, where he had handled Preston Macedonia in the National League and Altona Gate in State company.

In Victoria he had the job of rescuing Altona from possible demotion — and the season ended with "mission accomplished".

The 3-0 loss to Black-

town came in the absence of impressive striker, Bruno Beddoni.

Whilst being a recognised goalscorer, Beddoni was more missed for the outstanding ability to set up goals that has become such a feature of his play.

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NSW SOCCER FEDERATION



1992 COMPETITIONS

Applications are now being accepted from clubs wishing to participate in the NSW Soccer Federation in 1992, in the following competitions:

- SUPER LEAGUE
- FEDERATION DIVS 1,2,3,4,5,6
- WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE
- SYDNEY & DISTRICT LEAGUE

Applications forms are available from THE GENERAL MANAGER, NSW SOCCER FEDERATION, 235/257 Meurants Lane, PARKLEA, NSW 2155 (02) 629 1800, Fax: 629 3770

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

see the GRAND FINALS



CHAMPIONSHIP TOP FIVE

★ SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 29 ★

FIRST DIVISION

GABBLE STADIUM 3PM

CANBERRA METRO v BLACKTOWN CITY

SPECIAL EVENTS: 2.30pm: ROOBALL DEMONSTRATION
3.45pm: EXHIBITION BY SUPER SKILLS SQUAD
U19: CANBERRA METRO v SUTHERLAND SHIRE 12.30pm
★ Bring your transistor and listen to the LIVE description on 2KY!

SECOND DIVISION

ST GEORGE STADIUM 2.30pm

WAVERLEY v DULWICH HILL

U19: CYPRUS UNITED v AUBURN YUGAL 12.30pm

PHONE RESULTS SERVICE 0055 22681



Johnson for Macedonia

Mike Johnson has been signed by Wollongong Macedonia as its manager-coach on a long-term contract.

Club president Alec Kencevski, in making the announcement, said that Johnson's fulltime position would be of great benefit to the club.

"Mike's background in soccer will enable us to make the progress which will see us applying for National League in two years' time."

"We will be fulfilling one of the provisions of the Bradley Report by having a manager continually on the job," he added.

Johnson himself, a long time columnist with Australian British Soccer Weekly, said that he relished the challenge.

He said: "I love football and coaching."

"After finishing my playing career I have moved from one coaching post to another — continually working at improving my knowledge and abilities."

"The chance to be with Wollongong Macedonia enables me to fulfil my ambitions."

"I had another excellent opportunity, but my home location means that I was better placed to take up the Macedonia offer."

Johnson recently took Southern Districts through to the NSW State League First Division, but with his new appointment that link has been severed.

He replaces Casey De Bruin, who has decided that he cannot carry on due to business commitments.

De Bruin, himself a hard grafting midfielder of other years, is highly regarded by the club.

Mr Kencevski said: "Casey had two-and-a-half years with us. He had the support and he got more than his share of results."

Players respected him, and the fans were pleased with his efforts.

"John Fleming took over for some months, but Casey came back to us and did everything possible to set the club up."

One of De Bruin's innovations was to establish an apprenticeship scheme.

Two of its four members, striker Zoran

Koloski and stopper Steven Jovanoski, went so well that they won places in the Wollongong Macedonia side that claimed the 1990 NSW State League Grand Final.

Wollongong Macedonia expect to field a highly competitive squad in the 1992 NSW Super League.

They had battled hard in the 1990/91 National League season, but a final round 4-0 loss to highly rated Marconi saw them end up in last position on the table.

After that they missed out on being retained in NSL ranks, which remained a possible lifeline in the reorganisation that followed the implementation of the Bradley Report.

"I would be surprised if we lost anyone from our previous squad for the 1992 Super League," Mr Kencevski said.

"There is no doubt that Jason Dunn will come to terms. His unfortunate leg injury ruled him out for some time, but he will be back."



New coach Mike Johnson.

Celebrations!

The big awards

THE 1991 STATE LEAGUE ACCOLADES FOR PLAYERS AND CLUBS WILL BE HANDED OUT AT THE NSW SOCCER FEDERATION'S BIG PRESENTATION NIGHT AT THE BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11.

Federation clubs, from State League First Division to Seventh Division, with awards going to the Women's State League clubs as well."

Many others will be recognised, including the leading scorers in State Leagues 1 and 2, as well as the Best and Fairest teams in both grades of the top three divisions and the Women's State League.

An award goes to the Referee of the Year, as well as Fair Play Awards for State Leagues 1 and 2 and Federation League Three.

In addition the winners of the Championship Top Five series for State League First and Second Divisions will receive their cheques.

NSW Soccer Federation General Manager Peter Thorne said: "The night is one for all

it adds up to a marvellous night, with tickets and bookings available only from the NSW Soccer Federation as per details in the advertisement in this issue."

A NSW radio first!

A FIRST FOR NSW SOCCER — THE GRAND FINAL ON SUNDAY WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE FROM THE GABBLE STADIUM ON RADIO 2KY.

Peter Gray, NSW Soccer Federation president said: "We believe this is a forward move, which will be appreciated by soccer fans who cannot get to the ground."

"It is an early recognition of the interest that is out there in the public which we believe the media will increasingly wish to tap."

The live broadcast over 2KY illustrates the NSW Soccer Federation's commitment to the improvement of the game.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

PRESENTATION EVENING



★ FRIDAY OCTOBER 11 7PM ★
BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB
6 GREENFIELD PARADE
BANKSTOWN

★ TICKETS \$30ea may be purchased from the NSW Soccer Federation before 30.9.91.
★ TABLE BOOKINGS can be made for 8/10 persons
★ DRESS strictly formal — black tie.

PRESENTATIONS

- Federation Medal — Best & Fairest
- Players' Player of the Year
- Premiership Trophies, State Leagues 1 & 2 (both grades), Federation Leagues 3/7, Women's State League.
- Leading scorers, SL 1 & 2 (both grades).
- Best & Fairest Awards, State League 1 & 2, Federation League 3, Women's State League.
- Referee of the Year.
- Fair Play Awards, State Leagues 1 & 2, Federation League 3.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION,
235/257 Meurants Lane, PARKLEA NSW 2155.
(02) 629 1800 Fax: 629 3770

THE CENTRAL COAST WILL CELEBRATE ITS TENTH YEAR IN SENIOR FOOTBALL NEXT YEAR, AND A GREAT DEAL HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED OVER THAT TIME.

Publicity officer Kevin Best explained: "When we started out, half of the first team comprised players from Newcastle."

"This has been entirely turned around, and now the squad is almost entirely locally produced."

"Players like Derek Caisley and Matthew Garland have tried out for National League,

but fortunately for us they ended up back with the club."

One that got through the net, however, was Andrew French, who looks a fine midfield prospect with Sydney Croatia.

Coaching the first team for the past four years has been Jim Foley, who has now decided to use his skills to concentrate on the juniors that abound right throughout the area.

1991 wasn't Central Coast's best ever year.

However, things went a deal better than their position on the NSW Second Division table would indicate.

Mr Best said: "Almost all of our losses were by the odd goal."

"In fact, our worst loss was by two goals."

"Too often we went down at home on Pluim Park during the last 10 minutes of the game."

"That last 10-minute syndrome came almost like clockwork."

"We performed well against the top teams, and that included a home draw with premiers Waverley."

Improvements will take place at Pluim Park during the summer season.

Wooden and steel seating for 700 will be erected along the hill on the western side of the ground, with Central Coast and the State Government each handling 50% of the cost.

The structure will be erected in modules, and so it can be extended later.

In the medium term the club will turn the seating into a covered grandstand.

Pluim Park already has three grounds, the third being suitable for training, and the main arena is floodlit.

It is certainly the best soccer ground on the Coast for night games.

Entries are in for the Margin Cup, which is conducted over the Labor Day weekend, October 5/7.

The series began four years ago with 12 teams, and it has pro-

ved so popular that there are 40 entries this year, and an extra ground will have to be booked.

City and country clubs come to the Coast for an enjoyable weekend, some camping at Pluim Park where breakfast is arranged for them.

This year's contestants include Campbelltown, Greenacre, Western Suburbs, Concord Italia and Pennant Hills from the city, with Helensburgh from the South Coast and Bathurst from the Central West also on the job.

Local entrants include The Entrance, East Gosford, Wyong and Budgewoi.

The Central Coast is not short of ambition for the big time.

"We already have 5,000 players in the Central Coast Soccer Association," Kevin Best said.

"Judging by the rate at which people are moving to the district, we can see the total reaching 10,000 in between five and 10 years."

"When that time comes, and surely it will, we expect to be about the biggest Association in Australia."

"Plans are afoot to see that the talented youth of the district keep coming into our senior club."

Andy Paschalidis will be the sideline eye.

The kick-off will be altered from 2.30pm to 3pm to conform with station programming.

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY — SEPTEMBER 24, 1991

Chit Chat ... Chit Chat ... Chit Chat

Big Louie



EXPAT striker Lou Hristodoulou produced his best ever form in Europe last week when he scored both the Panathinaikos goals in their 2-2 European Cup draw with Fram Reykjavik.

Big Lou was in dazzling form and his efforts brought him rave reports from the Athens media.

"He was the complete player and this was his best ever in the Panathinaikos colours," the reports said.

Also in the Panathinaikos team was former Sydney Olympic star Chris Kalantzis.

More goals!

Aurelio Vidmar has scored his third goal for Kortrijk, in Belgium.

The Socceroo's latest goal came in Kortrijk's 3-1 defeat at Lokeren.

He continues to be one of the very best players in a Kortrijk team that is barely keeping its head above

water and is already threatened with relegation.

Another Aussie, Jason van Blerk, is back in Belgium, but still looking for a club after being let go by Sankt Truiden, which were relegated from the First Division last season.

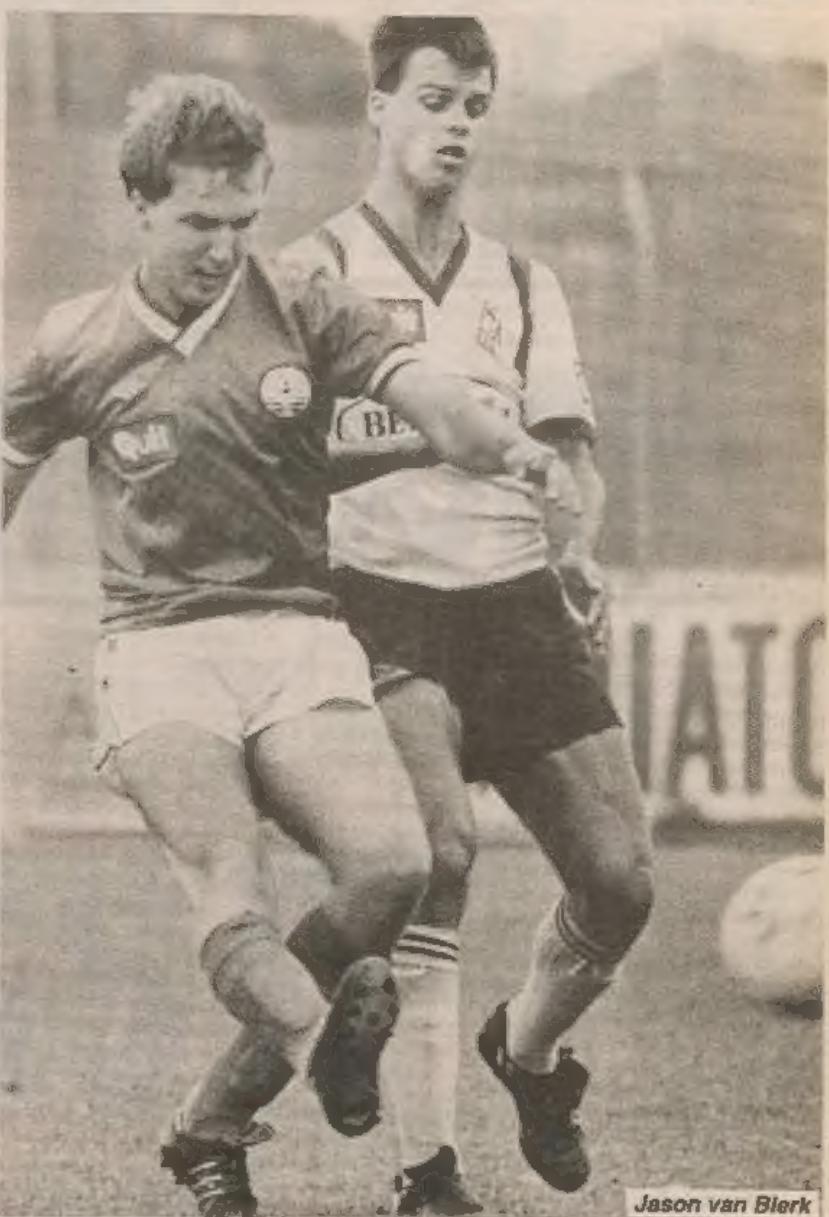
Durakovic stays

Socceroo defender Mehmet Durakovic won't be moving to Sydney.

His contract with South Melbourne Hellas has two seasons to run and he will see it through, according to Hellas president George Vasilo-

poulos. Vasilopoulos was responding to a press report that Durakovic was being chased by Sydney Croatia.

Durakovic, incidentally, became the proud father of a baby daughter, Jasmina, recently.



Jason van Blerk

POOLSWINNER II

THE ULTIMATE POOLS PREDICTION PROGRAM

• MASSIVE DATABASE

Poolswinner is a sophisticated Pools prediction aid comes complete with the largest database available — 22000 matches over 10 years. The database updates automatically as results come in.

• PREDICTS

SCOREDRAWS, AWAYS, HOMES and NOSCORES.

• SUCCESSFUL

T.E.S. guarantee that Poolswinner performs significantly better than chance.

• ADAPTABLE

Probabilities are given on every fixture — choose as many as you need for your bet. The precise prediction formula is set by the user — develop and test your own unique prediction method.

• PRINTER SUPPORT

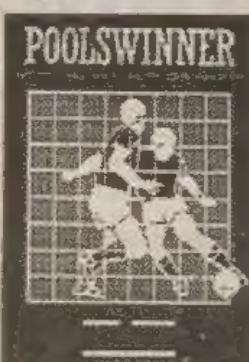
Full hard copy printout of data.

• SIMPLE DATA ENTRY

All team names are already in the program. Simply type in the reference number from the screen. Or use FIXGEN to produce fixture lists automatically (see below).

• LEAGUE AND NON-LEAGUE

teams are supported.



HOW POOLSWINNER WORKS

Throughout the season, you enter the results of league matches. The program automatically calculates the league tables, and updates the recent form record of each team. When making predictions, the program compares the form of both teams playing, and refers to the database to see how matches with similar form have ended in the past. The percentage probability of a draw, away win or home win are given for each match. (These percentages can be converted to true odds for those interested in fixed-odds betting).

For simple bets the program will give you the best selections (in order of preference) — you choose how many selections — as many or as few as you need.

UPDATING

The program is supplied with a record of recent league results — these are entered into the program (about 45 mins work), and predictions can then begin.

If you get the program direct from T.E.S. we will write to you at the end of the season with details of next year's program and update database, and an Australian version for existing users.

• FIXGEN 1991/92

Fixgen solves the problem of entering the fixtures list (the most time-consuming part of using a prediction program). Fixgen automatically generates the fixtures list in seconds — by simply typing in the date. The fixture list is immediately available to the Poolswinner program.

Fixgen can be used to list the whole season's fixtures for your reference, and will produce your team's complete league fixtures program, with dates.

Copyright for the fixtures belongs to the Football League and Scottish Football League, and are reproduced under licence from them.

Updates Each new season's Fixgen is supplied at a much reduced price for existing users (you will be informed when these are available).

COMMODORE 64 or 128
POOLSWINNER \$40 FIXGEN \$25

MONEY ORDER OR BANK CHEQUE TO

NEIL CRAWFORD
20 LORIMER STREET,
SOUTH MELBOURNE. 3205

Big Tony in debut

Tony Spyridakos made his Greek First Division debut, coming on as a 77th minute substitute for his newly promoted First Division side Pierikos in its 1-1 draw at Panzerikos.

★★★

Malta Eagles will not be bringing Maltese international Alex Azzopardi to Australia this year.

The NSW Cup winners have been turned off by the \$20,000 loan fee sought by the player's club, Hamrun Spartans.

The 30-year-old Azzopardi told Malta Eagles that normally Maltese clubs only charge a nominal fee when they lend players to each other.

But in his case, Hamrun decided to demand a hefty fee because it assumed that any Australian club must be rolling in money!

★★★

Robbie Slater has been out of action for the past two weeks and has missed Lens' last two games in the French First Division.

Slater is suffering from a coked thigh muscle, but was back last weekend when Lens were away to Marseille.

The last league



TONY SPYRIDAKOS

match in which Slater played — and scored — was against St Etienne.

Australian viewers can catch Slater at his best in this game this Saturday when it is the main game on "World Soccer" on SBS at 5.30pm, half an hour earlier in Adelaide.

★★★
Melbourne Croatia are trying to lure star midfielder-cum-striker Zeljko Adzic back to Australia.

The 1989-90 NSL Player of the Year left the club 12 months ago to return to Croatia where he was on the books of HASK-Gradjanski (ex-Dinamo Zagreb).

Adzic, who scored 24 goals in 38 NSL games, starred in the Canadian League for the Hamilton Steelers before moving to Melbourne where he was an instant hit.

His would be a welcome return to NSL ranks.

SOCER POOLS



THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 322

SAT. 28th SEPTEMBER, 1991

| ENGLISH DIVISION 1 | | |
|--------------------|--------------|----|
| CHELSEA | EVERTON | 1 |
| COVENTRY | ASTON VILLA | 2 |
| CRYSTAL P. | Q.P.R. | 3 |
| LIVERPOOL | SHEFF. WED. | 4 |
| LUTON | NOTTS C. | 5 |
| MAN. CITY | OLDHAM | 6 |
| NORWICH | LEEDS | 7 |
| NOTTINGHAM F. | WEST HAM | 8 |
| SHEFFIELD UTD. | WIMBLEDON | 9 |
| SOUTHAMPTON | ARSENAL | 10 |
| BARNESLEY | MILLWALL | 11 |
| BLACKBURN | TRANMERE | 12 |
| BRISTOL C. | PORTSMOUTH | 13 |
| GRIMSBY | IPSWICH | 14 |
| MIDDLESBRO | SUNDERLAND | 15 |
| NEWCASTLE | DERBY | 16 |
| OXFORD UTD. | PLYMOUTH | 17 |
| SOUTHDEN | WOLVES | 18 |
| SWINDON | WATFORD | 19 |
| BIRMINGHAM | PRESTON | 20 |
| BRADFORD C. | SHREWSBURY | 21 |
| BRENTFORD | BOLTON | 22 |
| BURY | HARTLEPOOL | 23 |
| EXETER | READING | 24 |
| LEYTON O. | HUDDERSFIELD | 25 |
| STOKE | STOCKPORT | 26 |
| SWANSEA | PETERBORO | 27 |
| TORQUAY | CHESTER | 28 |
| WEST BROM. | HULL | 29 |
| WIGAN A. | DARLINGTON | 30 |
| BARNET | CARDIFF | 31 |
| BLACKPOOL | ROTHERHAM | 32 |
| CARLISLE | WALSALL | 33 |
| CHESTERFIELD | ALDERSHOT | 34 |
| CREWE | GILLINGHAM | 35 |
| HEREFORD | LINCOLN | 36 |
| MAIDSTONE | YORK | 37 |
| ROCHDALE | DONCASTER | 38 |

RESERVE MATCHES

| ENGLAND DIV. 4 | | |
|----------------|--------------|----|
| SCARBORO | BURNLEY | 39 |
| WREXHAM | SCUNTHORPE | 40 |
| ALTRINCHAM | RUNCORN | 41 |
| BARROW | WELLING UTD. | 42 |
| FARNBORO | WITTON A. | 43 |
| MERTHYR T. | YEOVIL | 44 |
| AIRDRIE | S. JOHNSTONE | 45 |
| DUNDEE U. | MOTHERWELL | 46 |
| DUNFERMLINE | ST. MIRREN | 47 |
| FALKIRK | HEARTS | 48 |
| HIBERNIAN | CELTIC | 49 |
| RANGERS | ABERDEEN | 50 |
| CLYDEBANK | STIRLING A. | 51 |
| FORFAR | PARTICK | 52 |
| KILMARNOCK | RAITH | 53 |
| MEADOWBANK | HAMILTON | 54 |
| MONTROSE | DUNDEE | 55 |

* Winning match numbers

and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 8pm Mondays.

Get your
Pools in!

It takes only six
numbers to win.

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 321

SAT. 21st SEPTEMBER, 1991

| ENGLISH DIVISION 1 | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------|
| ARSENAL | SHEFFIELD UTD. | 1 5-2 |
| ASTON VILLA | NOTTINGHAM F. | 2 3-1 |
| EVERTON | COVENTRY | 3 3-0 |
| LEEDS | LIVERPOOL | 4 1-0 |
| MAN. UTD. | LUTON | 5 5-0 |
| NOTTS C. | NORWICH | 6 2-2 |
| OLDHAM | CRYSTAL P. | 7 2-3 |
| Q.P.R. | CHELSEA | 8 2-2 |
| SHEFF. WED. | SOUTHAMPTON | 9 2-0 |
| WEST HAM | MAN. CITY | 10 1-2 |
| WIMBLEDON | TOTTENHAM | 11 3-5 |
| BRISTOL R. | OXFORD UTD. | 12 2-1 |
| DERBY | BRIGHTON | 13 3-1 |
| IPSWICH | BRISTOL C. | 14 4-2 |
| LEICESTER | BLACKBURN | 15 3-0 |
| MILLWALL | NEWCASTLE | 16 2-1 |
| PLYMOUTH | MIDDLESBRO | 17 1-1 |
| PORTSMOUTH | CAMBRIDGE U. | 18 3-0 |
| PORT VALE | SOUTHEND | 19 0-0 |
| SUNDERLAND | GRIMSBY | 20 1-2 |
| TRANMERE | BARNESLEY | 21 2-1 |
| WATFORD | CHARLTON | 22 2-0 |
| WOLVES | SWINDON | 23 2-1 |
| BOLTON | WIGAN A. | 24 1-1 |
| CHESTER | WEST BROM. | 25 1-2 |
| DARLINGTON | BRENTFORD | 26 1-2 |
| FULHAM | LEYTON O. | 27 2-1 |
| HARTLEPOOL | BIRMINGHAM | 28 1-0 |
| HUDDERSFIELD | BOURNEMOUTH | 29 0-0 |
| HULL | TORQUAY | 30 4-1 |
| PETERBORO | EXETER | 31 1-1 |
| PRESTON | STOKE | 32 2-2 |
| READING | BRISTOL C. | 33 1-2 |
| SHREWSBURY | SWANSEA | 34 0-0 |
| STOCKPORT | BURY | 35 2-0 |
| BURNLEY | ROCHDALE | 36 0-1 |
| CARDIFF | SCARBORO | 37 2-1 |
| GILLINGHAM | BARNET | 38 3-3 |



THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 23/9/91 — WEEK 321

| NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED | | | | | | | | | | NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURRED | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 37 | 41 | 47 | 22 | 36 | 61 | 42 | 62 | 52 | 69 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 62 | 68 | 57 | 64 | 65 | 57 | 64 | 52 | 54 | 65 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 62 | 68 | 64 | 61 | 60 | 65 | 68 | 73 | 87 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 31 | 30 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 69 | 56 | 67 | 75 | 69 | 82 | 67 | 67 | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools.

RESULTS OF
WEEK 321 SAT SEPTEMBER 21, 1991

Winning Match Numbers (In numerical order):
6, 8, 24, 31, 32, 38.
Supplementary Number: 17.

UK SOCCER RESULTS AND TABLES

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Arsenal 5 Sheffield United 2, Aston Villa 3, Nottingham Forest 1, Everton 3, Coventry 0, Leeds 1, Liverpool 0, Manchester United 5, Luton 0, Notts County 2, Norwich 2, Oldham 2, Crystal Palace 3, Queens Park Rangers 2, Chelsea 2, Sheffield Wednesday 2, Southampton 0, West Ham 1, Manchester City 2, Wimbledon 3, Tottenham 5, Watford 2, Charlton 0, Wolverhampton 2, Swindon 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Bristol Rovers 2, Oxford 7, Derby 3, Brighton 1, Ipswich 4, Bristol City 2, Fulham 2, Leyton Orient 1, Hartlepool 1, Birmingham 3, Huddersfield 0, Bourne mouth 0, Hull 4, Torquay 1, Peterborough 1, Exeter 1, Preston 2, Stoke 2, Reading 1, Bradford 2, Shrewsbury 0, Swansea 0, Stockport 2, Bury 0, Blackpool 2.

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Bolton 1, Wigan 1, Chester 1, West Bromwich 2, Darlington 1, Brentford 2, Fulham 2, Leyton Orient 1, Hartlepool 1, Birmingham 3, Huddersfield 0, Bourne mouth 0, Hull 4, Torquay 1, Peterborough 1, Exeter 1, Preston 2, Stoke 2, Reading 1, Bradford 2, Shrewsbury 0, Swansea 0, Stockport 2, Bury 0, Blackpool 2.

ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR

Burnley 0, Rochdale 2, Cardiff 2, Scarborough 1, Gillingham 3, Barnet 3, Lincoln 1, Chester 2, Northampton 2, Carlisle 2, Rotherham 3, Maidstone 3, Scunthorpe 1, Crewe 0, Walsall 3, Hereford 0, York 2, Wrexham 2, Aldershot 1, Halifax 3, Doncaster 0, Blackpool 2.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Aberdeen 1, Hibernian 1, Celtic 3, Airdrieonians 1, Hearts 1, Dundee United 1, Motherwell 3, Dunfermline 0, St Johnstone 2, Falkirk 3, St Mirren 1, Rangers 2.

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Ayr 7, Meadowbank 0, Dundee 2, Kilmarnock 3, Hamilton 0, Clydebank 0, Partick 1, Montrose 0, Raith 1, Morton 1, Stirling 1, Forfar 3.

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Arbroath 3, Brechin 2, Cowdenbeath 3, East Fife 3, East Stirlingshire 0, Dumbarlon 0, Queen of the South 0, Stranraer 2, Queens Park 1, Alloa 8 (match abandoned at half-time), Stenhousemuir 4, Alloa 0.

HOMES LEAGUE

Cambridge City 4, Gloucester 2, Darlington 2, Burton 0, Dover 0, Walsall 0, VS Rugby 3, Gravesend 1.

NORTHERN IRISH CUP FIRST ROUND

Ballymena 5, Crusaders 2, Carrick 1, Distillery 3, Cliftonville 1, Bangor 0, Coleraine 0, Linfield 4, Glenavon 2, Portadown 3, Glentoran 4, Ballinclare 1, Larne 2, Omagh 3, Newry 2, Ards 2.

ENGLISH 1ST DIV

Manchester United 9 2 1 0 1 2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

The big World Cup

Whinge too early



FIFA President Dr Joao Havelange.

IT was inevitable that the South American Confederation's proposed 1994 World Cup qualifying draw would provoke the customary whingeing about Australia being "victimised" by FIFA.

First, let me point out that only FIFA has the authority to carry out the World Cup qualifying draw, and that won't be announced before December 8, at Madison Square Garden, New York.

BY LOU GAUTIER

The "draw" out of Rio last week was not FIFA-sanctioned.

It was only the position of the South American Soccer Confederation — what it would like FIFA to adopt.

The final decision lies with FIFA and the official draw will only be known in December.

What is known, however, is that Australia will definitely have to qualify for the finals via Oceania, Central and North America and South America, in that order.

Not an easy task; in fact, a damn tough one, but why should it be any different?

Australia has yet to prove itself worthy of an easy path to the World Cup finals.

One solitary appearance in the finals — in 1974 — does not give Australia — or Oceania — a divine right in World Cup or any other FIFA competitions.

We must prove ourselves on the football field first — as the African nations have done.

Africa's World Cup representation jumped from none, to one, to two and now three solely on performances over the past 20 years.

They have improved spectacularly while we have stood still.

Maybe it does. We may soon find out if it does, provided, of course, the Socceroos first win Oceania and then account for a tough Central American nation like Mexico, Costa Rica or Guatemala, just to name the strongest.

Instead of wringing our hands in shock and despair, let's do something constructive for a chance, to earn FIFA's respect.

Like making sure NOW — and the sooner the better — that the Socceroos are well prepared when and if they have the travel to Latin America in their quest for a berth at USA '94.

* Turn to Mario Etchart's South American page for details of the proposed South American World Cup draw.

Kiwis angry over play-offs!

New Zealand officials are angered by Australia's move to play the return Olympic qualifying match in Fiji.

As a cost-saving measure, New Zealand had waived their rights to home and away fixtures against Papua New Guinea and Fiji, opting for a three-nation tournament in Fiji instead.

New Zealand had played and lost to Australia in Melbourne in May and were looking forward to hosting the return match in November.

Now, Australia has successfully appealed to FIFA to have the return match played as part of the Fiji tournament.

The move has angered the disappointed New Zealand officials who see Australia backing out of the original agreement to play on a home-and-away basis.

"It is very disap-

pointing because the four countries involved had all agreed on the format of the qualifying matches," said New Zealand Football Association chairman Warwick Gendall.

"Our home match with Australia was set down for November 23.

"I had invited Australia to play all the games in Fiji but they declined.

"They said we could do it that way if we wished but they didn't want to take part.

"Alan Vessey, who was then the executive director of the Australian Soccer Federation, confirmed the November 23 date in New Zealand.

"He has since been replaced and the Australians have reneged on the agreement."

Australia will also play Fiji and Papua New Guinea in Fiji.

They had originally agreed to play Papua New Guinea at home as well.

— BY LOU GAUTIER



Star performer Milan Blagojevic

PARRAMATTA MELITA EAGLES S.C. LTD

YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

MONDAYS U/13 14th, 21st, 28th Oct — 4th Nov.
WEDNESDAYS U/14 18th, 25th, 30th Oct — 6th Nov.
THURSDAY U/15 17th, 24th, 31st Oct — 7th Nov.
FRIDAYS U/17 18th, 25th, 1st Nov — 8th Nov.

venue:

RAY MARSHALL RESERVE Wellington Rd, STH GRANVILLE TIME 6PM-8PM

Written applications for positions of
YOUTH LEAGUE COACHES

TO
THE CHAIRMAN, YOUTH LEAGUE
23 Cook St, DUNDAS 2117
BY 24.9.91
ENQUIRIES: A. PRESTON 871 4289
R. SARGENT 634 1056

APIA GREAT DEAD AT 63

AUDATO Iglesias, one of the most accomplished goalkeepers ever to grace an Australian football pitch, has died in Sydney at the age of 63.

Iglesias was bona-fide Real Madrid first team player before joining Apia in 1959, and a message from the famous Spanish club was read at his funeral last week.

Iglesias was Apia's starting goalkeeper until he retired in 1964 but he remained with the club as a goalkeeper coach for some years.

During his player career, Apia dominated the Sydney and national scenes.

One of nature's gentlemen, Audato Iglesias made countless friends in his native Spain and in Australia, the country he became a citizen of.

Our condolences to his family.
He is survived by wife Wanda and daughter Louella.
We are all the poorer for his untimely passing.

— LOU GAUTIER

Adamstown win the NNSW title



JOHN MCQUARRIE

BY DAVE SKAFTE

A crowd of over 2,500 turned out at Macquarie Field, Speers Point for last Wednesday's replay of the Northern NSW Grand Final between Adamstown and Weston following a scoreless draw in the first encounter.

The replay was another close encounter with both teams level at 1-1 and Adamstown winning 4-2 on a penalty shootout.

Weston Bears opened the scoring in the 25th minute when a cross by midfielder Ian Tressider was nodded in by teenage striker Justin Kavanagh.

Weston held out and looked as if they were going to chalk up their third consecutive Grand Final win.

However, five seconds to the final whistle, Adamstown got on even terms.

Midfielder Glen Chapman found striker Ross Wells and he slotted the ball home in expert style.

Prominent in the Adamstown win was the experienced John McQuarrie,



AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

ON SALE

CITY:

TUESDAY

COUNTRY:

WEDNESDAY

Victorian Premier League



STATE LEAGUE DIV ONE

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| North Geelong | 28 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 85 | 22 | 44 |
| Klein City | 28 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 70 | 25 | 43 |
| Springvale City | 28 | 18 | 4 | 6 | 53 | 23 | 40 |
| Bell Park | 28 | 13 | 5 | 10 | 36 | 34 | 31 |
| Caulfield City | 28 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 30 | 33 | 30 |
| Frankston Pines | 28 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 40 | 44 | 30 |
| Westgate | 28 | 12 | 5 | 11 | 43 | 32 | 29 |
| Werribee | 28 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 24 | 32 | 26 |
| Western Sales | 28 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 36 | 43 | 24 |
| Ringwood City | 28 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 26 | 35 | 23 |
| Port Melbourne | 28 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 33 | 42 | 21 |
| Melbourne City | 28 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 33 | 47 | 21 |
| Mordialloc | 28 | 6 | 7 | 14 | 28 | 42 | 17 |
| Essendon City | 28 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 27 | 44 | 21 |
| Boro Hill | 28 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 61 | 16 |

STATE LEAGUE DIV ONE RESERVES

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Bell Park | 27 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 38 | 32 | 41 |
| Klein City | 28 | 19 | 2 | 7 | 83 | 43 | 48 |
| Melbourne City | 28 | 17 | 5 | 6 | 57 | 34 | 39 |
| Springvale City | 28 | 15 | 6 | 6 | 61 | 30 | 37 |
| North Geelong | 28 | 13 | 10 | 5 | 55 | 23 | 36 |
| Port Melbourne | 28 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 57 | 37 | 35 |
| Caulfield City | 28 | 15 | 5 | 8 | 46 | 40 | 25 |
| R. Wood City | 28 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 40 | 33 | 29 |
| Werribee | 28 | 11 | 4 | 13 | 33 | 41 | 28 |
| Boro Hill | 27 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 30 | 45 | 23 |
| Western Sales | 28 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 30 | 36 | 17 |
| Mordialloc | 28 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 34 | 51 | 16 |
| Frankston Pines | 28 | 6 | 4 | 16 | 44 | 57 | 19 |
| Essendon City | 28 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 26 | 62 | 14 |
| Westgate | 28 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 27 | 73 | 12 |

STATE LEAGUE DIV TWO

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Richmond | 28 | 23 | 2 | 5 | 82 | 19 | 48 |
| Altona City | 28 | 19 | 7 | 3 | 56 | 27 | 45 |
| Broadmeadows | 28 | 13 | 3 | 7 | 51 | 36 | 28 |
| Duncraig Rovers | 28 | 13 | 9 | 5 | 45 | 34 | 25 |
| Chester | 28 | 14 | 11 | 6 | 31 | 32 | 32 |
| Bentleigh Green | 28 | 14 | 4 | 12 | 68 | 62 | 32 |
| Keller | 28 | 10 | 9 | 18 | 42 | 39 | 29 |
| Moorabbin City | 28 | 12 | 4 | 13 | 45 | 25 | 20 |
| Sanbury Utd. | 28 | 10 | 6 | 13 | 32 | 35 | 26 |
| Waverley City | 28 | 11 | 4 | 14 | 45 | 49 | 28 |
| Clifton Hill | 28 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 41 | 42 | 24 |
| Sandringham | 28 | 10 | 4 | 13 | 53 | 55 | 24 |
| Brighton | 28 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 38 | 40 | 24 |
| Geelong | 28 | 10 | 4 | 16 | 31 | 56 | 24 |
| Suns Heights ps | 28 | 7 | 8 | 17 | 23 | 64 | 20 |
| Dundowran | 28 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 16 | 33 | 15 |

STATE LEAGUE DIV TWO RESERVES

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Clifton Hill | 28 | 19 | 7 | 3 | 66 | 25 | 45 |
| Keller | 28 | 17 | 7 | 6 | 50 | 25 | 41 |
| Altona City | 28 | 14 | 10 | 5 | 69 | 34 | 38 |
| Richmond | 28 | 15 | 8 | 7 | 63 | 41 | 31 |
| Duncraig Rovers | 28 | 14 | 7 | 9 | 54 | 41 | 35 |
| Brighton | 28 | 12 | 9 | 17 | 47 | 40 | 32 |
| Suns Heights ps | 28 | 12 | 8 | 19 | 52 | 48 | 32 |
| Braamhead | 28 | 8 | 14 | 7 | 44 | 39 | 30 |
| Chelsea | 28 | 10 | 9 | 19 | 59 | 44 | 30 |
| Sanbury Utd. | 28 | 10 | 8 | 13 | 34 | 31 | 25 |
| Dandenong | 28 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 31 | 44 | 24 |
| Waverley City | 28 | 11 | 2 | 16 | 47 | 62 | 24 |
| Hornbeam City | 28 | 8 | 6 | 15 | 42 | 59 | 22 |
| Sentleigh Green | 28 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 58 | 68 | 22 |
| Sandringham | 28 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 42 | 74 | 17 |
| Geelong | 28 | 5 | 4 | 21 | 28 | 72 | 14 |

STATE LEAGUE DIV THREE

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Oakleigh City | 28 | 17 | 6 | 3 | 51 | 11 | 40 |
| East Grange Ivan | 28 | 16 | 5 | 5 | 53 | 22 | 37 |
| Moore Park | 28 | 13 | 5 | 6 | 50 | 23 | 34 |
| St Kilda Utd. | 28 | 17 | 2 | 7 | 57 | 25 | 36 |
| Eltham Valley | 28 | 13 | 4 | 9 | 43 | 27 | 35 |
| Clayton | 28 | 12 | 8 | 6 | 50 | 38 | 22 |
| Cape Gellibrand | 28 | 13 | 4 | 9 | 34 | 38 | 30 |
| Carisbrook | 28 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| Moore Park | 28 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 39 | 40 | 30 |
| Springvale Utd. | 28 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 27 | 38 | 24 |
| Fitzroy City | 28 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 25 | 38 | 22 |
| Corio Geelong | 28 | 7 | 4 | 15 | 31 | 62 | 16 |
| Holland Park | 28 | 6 | 5 | 16 | 29 | 35 | 11 |
| Heidelberg City | 28 | 5 | 1 | 23 | 15 | 53 | 7 |

STATE LEAGUE DIV FOUR

| | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Seaford United | 28 | 18 | 6 | 1 | 49 | 21 | 44 |

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Hellas once again the kings of the shootout!

SOUTH MELB 1
MELB CROATIA 1
(South won 4-2p)

BY VLADO VLAHOVIC
SOUTH MELBOURNE knocked Melbourne Croatia out of the Dockerty Cup the same way it clinched last year's dramatic Grand Final win against Croatia with a 4-2 penalty shoot-out victory after the Victorian giants were deadlocked at 1-1 at Somers St on Sunday.



However, the quarter-final clash never reached the heights of last season's exciting finale and again Croatia would be disappointed if couldn't do more with the amount of possession it enjoyed.

The first half saw a spirited, tough tackling display by both sides with Croatia midfielder Josip Biskic quickly asserting creative control as per usual.

Francis Awaritefe, Mark Silic twice and Ivan Kelic all came close for Croatia and Angie Postecoglou missed a golden chance to score for South Melbourne but he could only manage to find the grasp of keeper Joe Rados from a close range header.

South Melbourne made up for it however after 72 minutes, when a precise Paul Trimboli centre was well controlled by Kim Taliadoros and even more superbly



finished with a sharp turn and dynamic left foot strike into the far corner of the net.

Croatia clawed its way back into contention with an 85th minute equaliser, Biskic hit a firm corner into the path of rampaging Andrew Marth who sent a scintillating header high into the roof of the net from close range.

Big striker Kelic came closest to clinching a result in extra time for Croatia with an

outstretched poke and a close range header but it was not to be and the dreaded shoot-out became the final factor.

Paul Donnelly and Mark Talajic hit the crossbar and upright respectively to send Croatia tumbling out of the cup. South Melbourne converted all four of its penalties via Paul Wade, Paul Trimboli, David Healy and Mehmet Durakovic, who must now be considered favourites to win the Australia Diabetes Dockerty Cup.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Rados, Donnelly, Talajic, Setemidis, Davidson, Marth, Mori, Biskic, Silic (Bacak), Kelic, Awaritefe.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: McLaren, Healy, Postecoglou, Durakovic, Blair, Wade, Taliadoros, Wright (Boutsianis), Trimboli, Hasler, Tsolakis.



KIM TALIADOROS

Preston up

PRESTON 2
MORWELL FALCONS 1

BY PETER SIOMOS
PRESTON MADE-DONIA booked themselves a Showday show down with NSL champion South Melbourne Hellas after it downed Morwell Falcons 2-1 after extra time at Connor Reserve on Sunday.

Preston were lucky not to have gone behind 26 minutes in after a Jorge Nilo free-kick cannoned off the post and away to safety.

Against the run of play after 31 minutes, Kris Trajanovski turned and shot from just outside the area beating keeper Dave Reynolds to give Preston a 1-0 lead.

Preston youngster Robert Momirovski almost made it 2-0 when he weaved his way through the box but had his

shot saved by Reynolds.

With only seconds left in the half, Morwell equalised when Danny Nield converted the spot-kick after Sean Parton handled in the area.

Preston were strong at the back and as a result Steve Jackson played more of a midfield role and both Emshovski and Momirovski had chances in the opening 20 minutes of the second half but to no avail and it was left for extra time to decide the winner.

Vasco Trpevski opened the scoring after 13 minutes when he beat two players before making space at the edge of the box to unleash an unstoppable drive into the back of the net.

Mitch Cattermole made it 2-0 in the 33rd when he ran onto a through ball from John Waddell before sliding the ball past the advancing keeper Kevin Baker.

Croydon commenced the second half in a more positive state of mind and started to gain the ascendancy in the middle of the park where Stuart McArthur began to shine.

A McArthur cross found Greg Brack whose header was superbly saved by Sunshine keeper Sean Keogh.

After 62 minutes a goalmouth scramble allowed Andy Humble a strike at the target but Keogh rose to the challenge once more.

Three minutes later Croydon deservedly pulled one goal back when McArthur's corner was headed into the net from a near post effort by Archie McGeechey.

Both McGeachey and McArthur came close to scoring an equaliser before Sunshine wrapped it up in injury time after a Cattermole through ball was latched onto by Sherifovski who let fly from just outside the box giving keeper Baker no chance.

CROYDON: Baker, McCabe, Nolan, Lennon, Brack, Gibson, McGeachey, McArthur, Cubitt, Humble, Field.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh, T. Markovski, Muscat, Bot, Koliba, Fabrizio, Trpevski, Waddell, Tavigos, Glider, Cattermole, Sherifovski.

Bulls eat up Greens

BULLEEN 5
BENTLEIGH GREENS 1

BY VLADO VLAHOVIC

PREMIER LEAGUE

runner-up Bulleen Veneto eventually overran enterprising second division outfit Bentleigh Greens to the tune of 5-1 to advance to the Dockerty Cup semi-finals.

The convincing scoreline did not adequately reflect proceedings on the Somers St park on Sunday as the eager Greens compiled four good opportunities to score before Bulleen realised it was in a contest.

Bentleigh striker Alex Argiros was proving a menace in the early exchanges with two long range strikes at goal, one of them forcing keeper Mauro Raponi into a fine diving save and the other

flying inches past the near post.

Then Andrew Theoharous charged down midfield solo style into the area but his powerful drive went just wide of the far post.

Bulleen opened the scoring against the run of play after 25 minutes via the penalty spot after a controversial decision by referee Dennis Voutsinas. Bulleen's Darren Tuck smashed a low drive from close range into the arm of Manos Tamazou where there was no intent but nevertheless Anthony Grbac converted yet another spot-kick for his side.

Bulleen went further ahead after 40 minutes when livewire winger Stan Thodis lobbed stranded keeper Jim Vogiazis only to see George Argiopoulos clear off the line with an overhead kick but Con Pappas followed up to plant a low shot into the right corner of the net.

Bentleigh Greens fo-

ught back with a goal in the 55th minute when Mike Micheil blasted a close range shot from a fairly tight angle into the far corner of the net.

Only moments later Chris Hamakiots hit the corner of the post from a severe angle which might have inspired the Bentleigh boys if scored.

However, Bulleen as a unit were unperturbed and streamed forward to easily split a tiring Bentleigh defence to score three goals in the final 20 minutes.

Michael Branov, Frank Valente and Tuck completed the scoreline in an entertaining encounter helped by Bentleigh's adventurous attacking style.

BULLEEN: Raponi, Valente, Ruccio (Dal Ben), Krajacic, Marsan, Grbac (Alonzo), Branov, Thodis, Voutsinas, Pappas, Tuck.

BENTLEIGH GREENS: Vogiazis, Adricopoulos, Dongalis, Argiopoulos, Dimitrou (Tofallis), Theoharous, Gulenc (Petrakos), Argiros, Tomazou, Michell.



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DIABETES
AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA

Altona Gate unhappy over barbs regarding coaching alterations



Action from the Victorian State League.

BY CON STAVROS

VICTORIAN Premier League club Altona Gate are very upset at what they believe has been an unfair attack on their handling of the coaching situation during the past season.

Altona, which finished the inaugural year of the league in fourth

position, were involved in a well publicised split with coach Roy Maclaren with just five rounds of the competition remaining.

Long serving committee man and club publicity officer Vic Tracevski has told ABSW that the club is absolutely fuming at comments made by Maclaren and published in this paper recently.

"We are really hurt by

some of the comments made," he said, "it sounds like we are real bastards, when that is just not true."

Maclaren walked out on the club, claiming that the committee had tried to interfere with his selection decisions.

Altona Gate flatly deny any such claims and go to great lengths to point out that they never once commented on selection details unless specifically asked by the coach.

It had become a regular monthly event, according to Tracevski, for Maclaren and some members of the executive to amicably discuss the team's progress and direction.

"It's not true to say we interfered with decisions," points out Tracevski.

"Everyone was extremely happy with our performance throughout the season and for that we owe a big thanks to Roy Maclaren.

We are sorry to see him go that way. But his decision to walk out and leave us in the mud was based on his refusal to accept a fine and not because of interference by the committee."

The fine mentioned by Tracevski relates to an incident at training where Maclaren allegedly swore at members of the Altona committee.

At that point in time Altona Gate had suffered three consecutive losses to Thomastown, Juventus and Bulleen in close games.

At training the following Thursday after the game with Bulleen, Maclaren sprang a surprise selection choice by naming Tony Lingrovski, who had missed training that evening without an acceptable reason.

Following this selection, according to Tracevski, many players approached the committee, annoyed at the decision to select a player who had missed training without cause, and contrary to club policy been chosen for the upcoming game against Croydon.

Team Manager George Stojanovski, who approached Maclaren at this point with a request for him to front the executive and explain the decision, was met with a comment that was to earn Maclaren his two weeks'

wages fine.

That fine was imposed by the full 28-man committee of Altona Gate on the following Monday at its regular monthly meeting. Ironically, the day before, Altona had defeated Croydon and Tony Lingrovski had been the game's best player.

The committee's decision to fine Maclaren was based solely on his comments and not his selection decision, stresses Tracevski. In fact the decision to impose the fine of two weeks wages, approximately \$800, was a very close vote.

Informed of the decision regarding the fine, Maclaren refused to accept it and subsequently literally walked out of the club, never to return. No letter of resignation was ever tendered.

red, nor was one of dismissal issued.

That left us in no-man's land," said Tracevski and Altona finished the season under the leadership of Cele Preisilski, who at the time was in charge of the under 14 team.

Altona claim that the majority of players, whilst sad to see a good coach like Maclaren depart, supported the committee's decision to impose a fine on him for his comments.

We don't like going public with these things concluded Tracevski, "but the club felt it was important that people realised that the only problem was with Roy accepting the fine and not with the club imposing its will on selection."

"A person cannot just swear at his employers and get away with it," he added.

Womens title

SOUTH QUEENSLAND took the Australian women's soccer title with a 2-0 victory over New South Wales at the weekend.

South Queensland dominated play throughout the match and despite some individual efforts from NSW striker Janine Riddington and captain Moya Dodd, the 1990 champions never

appeared to be a threat to the Queenslanders.

Tracey Little and Michelle Grant scored the goals to help South Queensland follow up its defeat of NSW in the first round of the championship.

The Queensland team completed the six rounds of competition undefeated.

Victoria finished third, followed by South Australia, ACT, Northern NSW, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Senior squad

AS EXPECTED, the ACT's Julie Murray is not in the Australian women's senior squad training towards a Test series in New Zealand next month.

Murray suffered knee ligament damage on the first day of the national championship, spending the rest of the week on crutches.

However, coach John Reid said he had seen enough of her to realise she had plenty of quality. "She is definitely in my plans," he said.

The squad is Tracey Wheeler (Western Aus-

tralia), Sarah Cooper, Jane Oakley (Vic), Sharon Black, Sonia Gegenhuber, Tracey Jenkins (Sth Australia), Donna Fredrickson, Kaylene Janssen, Michelle Sawyers (Sth Queensland), Anissa Tann, Moya Dodd, Sharon Young, Janine McPhee, Katrina Boyd (NSW), Angela Iannotta (ACT), Linda Hughes, Alison Forman, Debra Bonshaw, Lisa Dunn (Northern NSW).

The 19-strong squad will go into a three day camp in Sydney where it will be trimmed to the 16 players who will make the trip across the Tasman from October 19 to 22.

THE MAESTRO AND OLD CAMPAIGNERS

BY CON STAVROS

A LIVING legend and three dynamic players of old hold the reigns of Melbourne's four NSL clubs in their hands this season.

They are the first to be blamed when the bitter taste of defeat occurs and the first to be praised when the sweet smell of success strikes.

Puskas, Cole, Gardner and Murphy, sounding like a law firm, are the men entrusted with the task of steering and moulding the Victorian push for a repeat of last season's al-Melbourne Grand Final.

The two new kids on the block are Heidelberg's Gary Cole and Melbourne Croatia's Ken Murphy. Just how new they are is questionable however, as they return to sides where they carved out more than inspirational playing careers.

These two, along with Preston superto John Gardner, are essential coaches struck of the same mould. Champion players, amiable communicators and products of the local game, they are a breed of skilled professionals finally making an impact upon a game dominated in the past by foreign influence.

Ferenc Puskas, now

beginning his final campaign at South Melbourne, is the classic import who has defied the odds and come good for his sponsors.

Easily the most recognisable face of world football to coach in our country the laid-back Hungarian, who now calls Spain home, added the NSL title to his sparkling resume in just his second season at Middle Park.

Amid persistent speculation that he would return to Europe after capturing the championship for Hellas, Puskas surprised many by opting to take on another season when it appeared he had nothing more to prove.

Awaiting him at Middle Park Stadium this season is a monumental challenge as he attempts to settle a side rumbling with discontent and perhaps player defections. Puskas is in reality a manager rather than a coach and his skills will certainly be tested if South are to hold a steady course this season.

Critics of Puskas have been quick in past seasons to criticise his aloof and carefree approach to instructing his talented squad. Regular disparaging remarks are made about the lack of modern orthodoxy in his concepts be they at training or on the park.

His tactical formations are certainly nothing revolutionary nor are his approaches to physical fitness or player substitutions.

Ultimately, however, all Ferenc Puskas has to do is point to the trophy cabinet to silence even the most vehement critic.

In terms of media relations, however, Puskas is a dud. He rarely makes a comment worthy of print and his limited command of the English language make him a journalistic nightmare.

The remaining Melbourne coaches are as different in their philosophy of coaching to Puskas as practically possible.



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Hellas face a big task this season!

BY CON STAVROS

DEFENDING National League Champions South Melbourne Hellas face a difficult task in their plans to win back to back titles this season.

A triumphant Hellas outfit just pipped minor Premiers Melbourne Croatia in a penalty shoot-out at Olympic Park last May and everything looked rosy as plans for a European tour emerged.

Now back to the humbling atmosphere of Middle Park following the sojourn, the pressure of being number one is starting to show.

It doesn't take a Rhodes Scholar to realise that executive harmony is congruent to on-field success. Hellas, under the astute guidance of president George Vasilopoulos, exemplified this perfectly last season in a relatively smooth campaign that ultimately yielded the games biggest prize.

Whilst the tour of Greece, that encompassed feature matches against high profile outfits PAOK and Panathinaikos, was by no means an abject failure, the club certainly learned some valuable lessons about organisati-

on and financial control the hard way.

The tour which cost around \$100,000 was thankfully funded by the club's major sponsor, Jack Dardaris, of Marathon Foods.

With the challenge of a new season only days away, it appears that elements of functional behaviour have soured the prospects of the title repeat occurring.

Vasilopoulos has made no secret of the fact that he is disappointed with the payout from the NSL after last season's victory. Hellas received \$126,000 for their efforts, a figure well below expectation, of which a significant portion was given to the players as a win bonus.

With seven contracts up for renewal, including those of Socceroo trio Mike Petersen, Paul Wade and Paul Trimboli, the prospect of the Blues fronting up without the engine-room of their past success is a distinct chance.

Mike Petersen is at present the centre of contractual negotiations but appear to have reached an impasse.

The stalemate centres on Hellas's attempt to restructure the remuneration of its players contracts to reflect a higher emphasis on performance-based rewards.



Hellas coach Ferenc Puskas on the bench.

Understandably this system eases the financial burden on the club by linking payments directly to results

Equally understandably the players whilst sensitive to the budgetary restrictions of the club, are loathe to accept such a tenuous form of payment, that could leave them significantly financially disadvantaged should injury or misfortune strike.

Petersen and Vasilopoulos both speaking to ABSW are at pains to point out that there is

no dispute as such taking place. Indeed by all reports talks have been amicable throughout the negotiation process.

With the season upon us however, the question still remains as to whether Petersen will once again pull on his famous number 8 Hellas shirt.

Initial reports of Petersen missing training because of staleness following a long campaign are certainly justifiable. The 'Crab', as 26 year old Petersen is affectionately called, by all reports starred on the Greek junket following a sickness-interrupted last season.

His silky skills and playmaking vision are an integral cog in the South Melbourne team and his continued non-appearance would be a tragic blow to the aspirations of the defending champs.

Petersen told ABSW that his dream is to still continue as a Hellas player, but that under the present arrangements this was just not feasible.

Citing the present contract offer as significantly less than last year, The 'Crab' is prepared to

sit out the season rather than accept what he believes is an embarrassing financial reward for his services.

Speaking to Petersen there is no doubt that he remains a loyal club man stranded by the constraints of a club inexplicably suffering financially.

Vasilopoulos, the consummate negotiator is adamant that there is no further flexibility in the club's monetary projections.

Petersen by sitting out the season would naturally kill off his Socceroo status but regain full control of his business which he says would compensate him

for his time away from the playing field.

The ties of business also prevent him from considering overseas offers by player agents or the possibility of moving to an interstate club capable of meeting what would clearly be a large transfer fee.

Hellas sources have hinted in the past days that the prospect of Petersen re-signing are slowly improving in accordance with separate negotiations taking place.

This glimmer of hope is heartening for the blue and white faithful who saw the signs of self destruction starting to appear with the

recent reports of discontent at the club.

Soothing differences and preaching harmony look like being the principle activity of the committee which was returned unopposed at a recent meeting.

The returning administration, facing financial restrictions, is keen to ensure the stability of last year continues this season.

Returning Michael Petersen's trademark gait and unquestionable talent to the Middle Park playing field is without doubt their first big assignment and perhaps ultimately the litmus test for the dreams of going back to back.



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SUNDAY

MATCH RESULTS SERVICE

- PREMIER LEAGUE
- STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1
- PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISIONS 4 & 5

(Updated by 6.30pm each Sunday evening)

0055 38878

SATURDAY

MATCH RESULTS SERVICE

- PREMIER LEAGUE
- STATE LEAGUE DIVISIONS 1 TO 3
- (Updated by 6.30pm each Saturday evening)

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SATURDAY

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VICTORIAN JUNIOR TABLES

UNDER 11

CEN/SOUTH A

| P | W | D | L | F | A | PT |
|-----------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|
| AST BENTLEIGH | 18 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 107 | 53 |
| CLAYTON | 18 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 73 | 18 |
| BRIGHTON | 18 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 78 | 19 |
| ALBERT PARK MAG | 17 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 77 | 20 |
| GARDEN NGHAM | 17 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 77 | 20 |
| SARRENSHAW B | 17 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 73 | 19 |
| ELWOOD | 17 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 71 | 15 |
| NEW EAGLES | 16 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 34 | 16 |
| BENTLEIGH GREEN | 16 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 67 | 7 |
| EAST RICHMOND | 16 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 16 |
| BORGIALLO | 16 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 9 |
| BYE 300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

NORTHERN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | PT |
|-----------------|----|----|---|----|----|-----|----|
| ELSTON UTD | 18 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 72 | 13 | 36 |
| B.D. JUVENTUS | 19 | 19 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 15 | 25 |
| NORTHOTE CITY | 19 | 19 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 7 | 23 |
| KELVIN PARK | 18 | 14 | 1 | 4 | 28 | 20 | 21 |
| MTB GLEN STRAHL | 18 | 14 | 5 | 2 | 46 | 15 | 33 |
| B.U. JUVENTOS | 20 | 14 | 2 | 4 | 71 | 18 | 30 |
| HEADON PARK | 20 | 17 | 3 | 3 | 67 | 36 | 27 |
| PRESTON | 19 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 24 | 32 | 10 |
| ELSTON EAGLES | 19 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 38 | 28 | 16 |
| MTB RESERVOIR | 19 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 21 | 49 | 13 |
| H/BERG UTD A | 19 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 19 | 38 | 11 |
| NORTHOTE CITY | 21 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 44 | 37 | 16 |
| REGENT | 18 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 61 | 5 |
| ELSTON UTD A | 20 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 30 | 47 | 13 |
| ESSendon CITY | 20 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 38 | 49 | 12 |
| PRESTON | 21 | 3 | 1 | 15 | 39 | 58 | 11 |
| KEON PARK | 20 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 237 | 0 |

CEN/SOUTH B

NTH/WEST A

| P | W | D | L | F | A | PT |
|-------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|
| BATTER | 5 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 94 | 24 |
| LANGMARRIN | 16 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 53 | 24 |
| F STON UTD | 15 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 51 | 14 |
| BEAMAP S | 0 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 32 | 28 |
| MORNINGTON | 15 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 36 | 21 |
| PEPINISLA | 15 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 37 | 15 |
| HASTINGS | 15 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 56 |
| FATOR PINES | 15 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 69 |
| ELWOOD UTD | 15 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 71 |

EASTERN A

| P | W | D | L | F | A | PT |
|------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|
| SPRINGVALE CITY | 19 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 107 | 93 |
| SEAFORD JUNIOR | 18 | 16 | 0 | 2 | 72 | 32 |
| DAVENPORT JUNIOR | 19 | 15 | 1 | 5 | 66 | 27 |
| BONCASTER ROY | 19 | 13 | 1 | 5 | 52 | 27 |
| BERNICK CITY | 19 | 10 | 1 | 8 | 56 | 23 |
| LYMBRO UNITED | 21 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 41 | 29 |
| DRUMMINGHAM CITY | 18 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 58 | 18 |
| MONBUK | 21 | 7 | 1 | 13 | 36 | 15 |
| ENDO CITY | 19 | 8 | 1 | 12 | 30 | 13 |
| RINGWOOD CITY | 20 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 21 | 15 |
| WAVERLEY CITY | 21 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 29 | 5 |
| CLARINDA | 18 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 |

EASTERN B

NTH/WEST B

| P | W | D | L | F | A | PT |
|-----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| SPRINGVALE CITY | 19 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 92 | 32 |
| ELSTON | 15 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 92 | 32 |
| PASCOE VALE | 15 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 52 | 15 |
| FAIRFIELD | 15 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 39 | 19 |
| ROSANNA | 16 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 37 | 27 |
| NETLON B | 15 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 32 | 21 |
| KFL/DR B | 15 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 52 | 15 |
| WESTGATE | 15 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 45 | 24 |
| WAVERLEY CITY | 15 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 45 | 24 |
| MONBUK | 15 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 32 | 15 |
| ENDO CITY | 15 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 26 | 15 |
| RINGWOOD CITY | 20 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 21 | 15 |
| WAVERLEY CITY | 21 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 29 | 5 |
| CLARINDA | 18 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 |

WESTERN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | PT |
|----------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|
| PRESTON | 21 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 57 | 15 | 37 |
| B.D. JUVENTUS | 19 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 48 | 18 | 36 |
| ESSENDON | 18 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 48 | 24 | 37 |
| NETLON B | 20 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 47 | 34 | 21 |
| NORTHOTE CITY | 17 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 24 | 16 | 10 |
| WESTGATE | 19 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 45 | 50 | 10 |
| ST H/B BRITONS | 17 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 24 | 15 |
| REGENT | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 31 | 17 |
| NETLON C | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON D | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON E | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON F | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON G | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON H | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON I | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON J | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON K | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON L | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON M | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON N | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON O | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON P | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON Q | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON R | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON S | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON T | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON U | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON V | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON W | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON X | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON Y | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON Z | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON AA | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| NETLON BB | | | | | | | |



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH ALAN CLARK



City drop their interest in Yugoslav

ADELAIDE City looks unlikely to pursue its interest in former Red Star Belgrade youth team captain Roman Nikolic.

He returned to Sydney last week after being injured in a trial clash with local rival West Adelaide.

TWO of SA soccer's best-known personalities will be taking a lower profile in the game.

Peter and Anne Fioretta have retired as mine hosts of the Black Lion Hotel just a corner kick from Hindmarsh Stadium.

They are sure still to be ardent followers of Adelaide City in the NSL.

PORT Adelaide has found a winner in young striker Bill Tachos.

The Magpie marksman has bagged 12 goals this season to be leading scorer in the Second Division.

Younger brother, Michael 17, another Magpie, was in the State under-17 and High Schools squads but had to withdraw through study commitments.

A PROPOSED, football-style, top five series for the Foundation Soccer League will be one of the main topics at an open forum of clubs on Wednesday.

Each club has been invited by the SA Soccer Federation to be represented by its president, secretary and another committee member at the forum today week at Hindmarsh.

Preparatory, in-depth talks will be held on a controversial, wide-range of matters to be discussed at an administration seminar on the direction of the game at Hindmarsh on Sunday, October 20.

The top five series to decide the State champion is one major suggestion. Other leading topics:

- THE introduction of a winter youth league (with suggested scrapping of Reserves).
- USE of Hindmarsh Stadium (Match of Day there is one proposal).
- STRAMFLINING of Cup programs. (Some at present appear meaningless and

make that clear," Cole said. "I was thinking of giving the game away. But now I want to play on. I won't go knocking on doors but will look at any offers that come along."

CONTINUING to catch the eye for Blackwood is talented teenager Kurt Wilkinson.

The lanky midfielder must be a nightmare to play against with his awkward style.

But he looks to have genuine class if he can add consistency to his play.

COACH Martyn Crook

with little crowd appeal).

□ **PLAYER** transfers (On loan deal proposal between NSL clubs and those in Foundation League)

□ **PROMOTION**, re-legation and new league structures. (There have been suggestions for new two, three or even four tier leagues)

In a circular to clubs, SA Soccer Federation general manager Tony Farrugia said: "This forum is your club's opportunity to express its views on the direction the game should take."

FORMER State team defender Ian Cole has been told by Azzurri he will be transfer-listed from November 30.

"In a letter to me, the club has cited differences between me and coach Jan Kiernan that can't be patched up," Cole claimed.

"I am very disappointed how things have turned out. I am no troublemaker and I don't want to be seen as one."

"For a club that likes to think of itself as professional it has acted in a very unprofessional manner here."

Cole, 26, has a background of stable performance. He played for two years with Enfield, five at Para Hills and two at Modbury before joining Azzurri.

"I have done nothing wrong and want to

this week hopes to announce his State squad to meet Adelaide City and West Adelaide in the \$30,000 Fairmont Homes challenge series in November at Hindmarsh Stadium.

He has promised the team will go on the attack and will not just be there to make up numbers.

"We are contacting the players we want. We have to find out just what some players' commitments are and then we should be able to name the squad," Crook said.

"We have looked at players in form — not

just names. We feel we shall have a good balance of youth and experience. Some top young players will get their chance."

Crook has worked out a training program. That will start with a light run on Sunday, October 6.

"After West End Cup preliminary round commitments we shall be at full bore, training twice a week. We also hope to have a couple of trial games," Crook said. "We want to give ourselves ample preparation. We have no intentions of being also rans."

"We want to be attacking-minded and try to get as much as we can out of the series."

WEST Adelaide may have found a defensive enforcer if it snags Argentinian trials, Claudio Canosa.

The flame-haired, "take no prisoners" defender caught the eye as West downed Adelaide City 1-0 in the SA National Soccer League rivals first major pre-season warm up game at Woodville West.

Tall and thinly built, Canosa, who has been based in NSW, trained

with West last week and looks a likely capture.

Former Youth Socceroo squad player Brett Pullen, of Tasmania, also has been out with West.

USC Lion goalkeeper Archie Christakos donned the gloves for West in the first-half with regular custodian Chris Tsoleridis taking over after the break.

West had hoped to sign Blacktown City's former Youth Socceroo Steve Mautone. But he could be out for much of the season with a serious leg injury.

West, more battle-hardened after its recent Foundation League success, won

through a Raymond Blair goal. City not surprisingly looked out. New boys Zoran Ilic and Roman Nikolic showed a few touches but had quiet debuts. Nikolic had to be taken off in the second-half after a crisp Mark Capasso tackle.

Skipper Sergio Melta slipped into Aurelio Vazquez's deep lying midfield role for City which had Tony Vidmar (groin), Ernie Tapai (shin splints) and Robert Zabica (flu) on the sidelines. Ross Aloisio made impact as a second-half substitute.

The local giants continued their build-up last Sunday with City facing Marconi at Norwood and West playing Heidelberg.



Adelaide City's 1991-92 line-up. Pic: JANUSZ KAMMA.



West Adelaide Hellas 1991-92 line-up. Pic: JANUSZ KAMMA.

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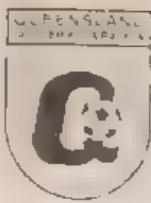


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QUEENSLAND SOCCER

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Men in black again in the spotlight

REFEREES have unfortunately become the major players in the XXXX League finals series.

The men in black were the centre of controversy as Lions advanced to this weekend's grand final and Pine Rivers bowed out of the finals race.

Rochdale player-coach John Stewart slammed referee Henry Marron after his team's 3-2 loss to Lions while Rivers coach Bobby Hamilton lamented the referee's decisions after his side was eliminated 3-2 after extra-time by Brisbane Croatia.

Stewart refused to offer Marron's performance as an excuse for his side's major semi-final loss but blasted the Queensland Soccer Federation for not appointing a more experienced referee to the match.

"These are the most important games of the year and we get a bloke like this in the middle," Stewart said. "It was an absolute joke. He allowed us to get the hell kicked out of us."

"The first player he booked was one of our players for swearing."

Hamilton similarly was upset with referee-

GREG RUSSELL LOOKS AT THE SUNSHINE STATE

ing decisions, but after a season-long battle with officials, declined to blame the man in black and his team's exit — despite a string of controversial decisions in his team's shock loss.

"It was disappointing to bow out this way," Hamilton said. "I hope a lot of the guys learn from this year and gain something from it next year."

The direct qualification of Lions to the grand final meant talented midfielder Russell Stewart will miss the season climax.

Stewart is serving a two-match suspension as a result of a second 12 penalty points tally in the last fixture.

But Lions will still go into the match as favourites as the club, after a slow start, have underlined their overall strength with yet another club championship — judged on perfor-

mance over the four XXXX Grades.

It is the third consecutive grand final appearance for Lions, but they are facing their third consecutive defeat.

They were beaten two years ago by Easts and last year by Brisbane City.

Lions coach John Sime, who masterminded Lions' demise two years ago, is confident he can again taste grand final success.

"We can play better than this," Sime said after Lions' win over Rochdale.

"I wasn't real happy with the first half but we had a good spell in the second. I think we'll go better with that run."

"We've been there before and fallen on our face, so everyone knows the season is not yet over."

The XXXX League grand final will be one of the three big grand finals at soccer headquarters this weekend. The Division two and three grand finals will also be played in a bumper day of soccer.



Rivers coach Bobby Hamilton

United surprise

BRISBANE United are far from being carried away from their 2-1 loss in the team's inaugural match against Marconi at Perry Park last week.

While many pundits were predicting a four goal loss, United stunned the former NSL champions with a spirited second half performance.

Marconi led by two at the break but in oppressive Brisbane conditions, which could be-

come a traditional ally for the United team, Marconi wilted in the second half, allowing Brisbane to graft their way back into the match.

Despite unfavourable fitness assessments only a week earlier, Brisbane showed far more commitment than Marconi and ran their high-powered Sydney opposition ragged in the second half.

United went into the match without their New Zealand imports.

SUCCESSFUL Gold Coast-based coach Jim Selby had been given the unenviable task of following long-serving Queensland Director of Coaching Stowell.

Selby, who has quietly waited in the wings and completed many of coaching courses initiated by Stowell, was last

week appointed as the new Queensland Director of Coaching.

Se by was selected from an extensive list of applicants.

He has an outstanding professional coaching and administrative record extending over 10 years of fulltime employment with the Queensland Soccer Federation.

Selby has worked as

an Australian Soccer Federation staff coach and a FIFA Academy Youth Coach.

Most notably, Selby was the first Australian to be appointed full-time under the Australian Soccer Federation coaching scheme.

He is a former president of the New South Wales Soccer Coaches' Association and is a life member of the Austra-

lian Women's Soccer Association after being the National Women's coach for eight years.

Selby has achieved considerable success in Queensland with the Gold Coast Gamblers team, taking them to Ampol Cup success and coaching the regular team to the final of the intercity competition.

Toowoomba Direc-

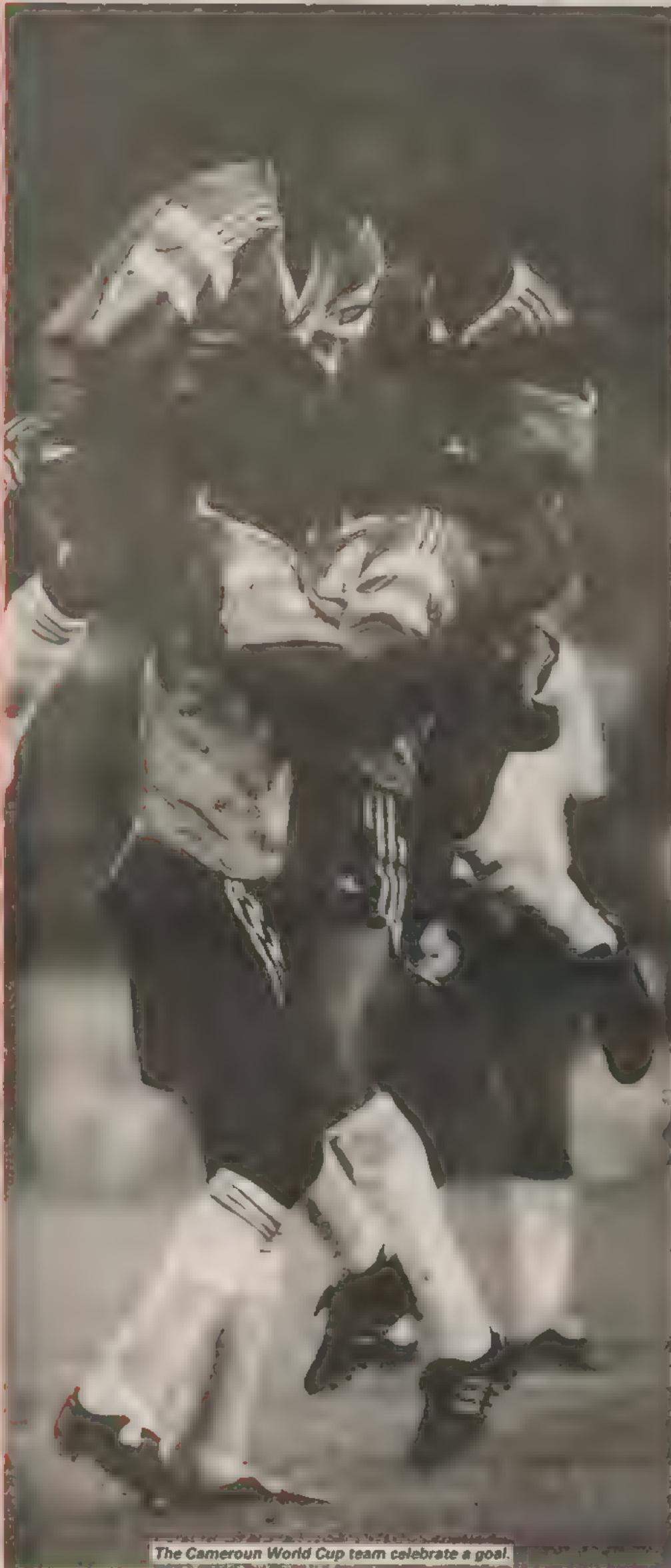
tor of Coaching Peter Kelly was named as Selby's assistant.

Kelly has had a rapid rise to prominence in coaching since his playing days with Bundaberg, Frenchville and Grange Thistle.

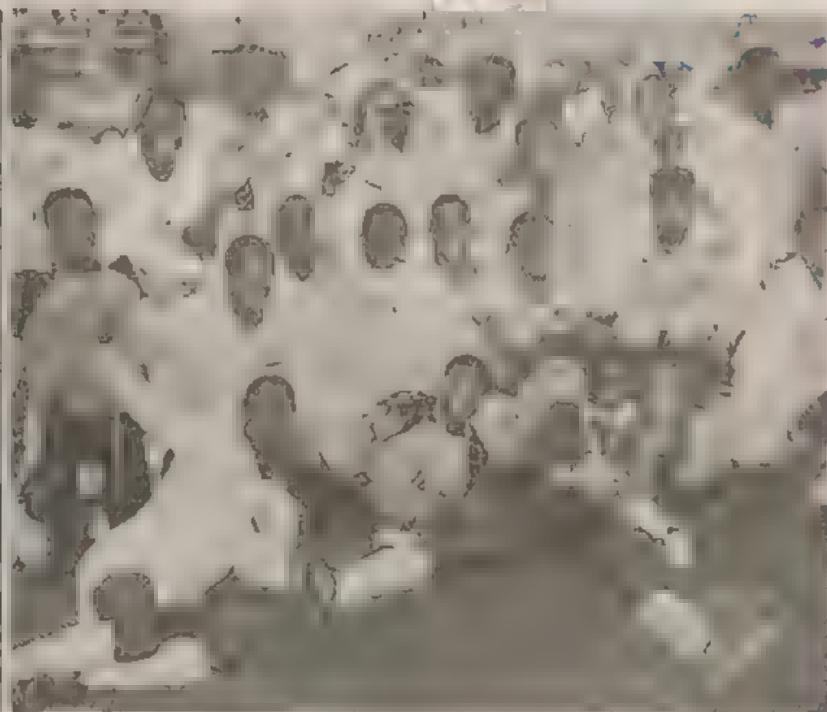
He was formerly Mackay Director of Coaching before taking on the Darling Downs position.

JOHNNY WARREN HAS HIS SAY

Beware the African blitz



The Cameroon World Cup team celebrate a goal.



The Ghana squad which won the U/17 World title.

WITH A Roger Milla to inspire them, anyone of nine African nations could win the next World Cup.

That's the opinion of a study group of German coaches who were in Montecatini recently for the under 17 World Cup.

Many of these coaches have, or are working in Africa under the German Government's fully sponsored "foreign aid" program to Africa.

Cameroun, they argued, did enough at Italia '90 to go all the way and they say the likes of Congo, Ghana, Zambia, Algeria, Cameroun, Nigeria, Egypt and Zaire — all finalists in the African Nations' Cup to be staged in Senegal next January — are capable of going all the way in the USA in 1994.

That is provided they can find a Roger Milla type to spark them.

That may not be as difficult as it sounds as African footballers like Milla in Italia '90 at 38 years of age, mature later than their European counterparts.

★★★

German youth coach Fritz Bischoff labelled Ghana "the team which plays twenty first century football" after his under 17 side were given a 5-1 hiding in a warm-up game prior to the World Cup.

Everyone who saw Ghana in Italy or through SBS Television's coverage of the final would agree with Bischoff's high praise.

Led by their "Pelé of the next century", 16-year-old Anderlecht attacker "Nii" Odartey

Lampley, Ghana were the revelation of the championships, running out deserved winners over Spain in the final.

In the semi-final they had 31 strikes on goal compared to Qatar's four, and in beating Brazil in the quarter-finals (and an excellent Brazil at that), they featured in the best match of the entire tournament.

★★★

They played five reserve players in drawing with Spain in the qualification match, played with 10 men for most of the game when they downed Uruguay and had six 14-year-olds in their squad.

But Ghana was more than a team which got results.

They play with style and Brazilian type improvisation.

Super athletes, equally at home on the ground or in the air, exceptional long range dead ball and shooting skills and unique dribbling skills all combined to make Ghana the team of the World Cup.

According to travelling Ghanian media personnel, their senior, Olympic and under 20 teams are "much better" than this under 17 side.

★★★

Ghana's display in the World Cup especially pleased one person in Montecatini.

It is no secret that FIFA president Joao Havelange won FIFA's top job in 1974 on the huge African vote.

Havelange repaid the Africans with massive youth development programmes, greater representation in

the various World Cups and Olympic Games.

Africa has more than justified Havelange's faith, winning more than its share of junior World Cups, while dramatically climbing the world ladder at senior level.

One really senses Cameroun's "surprise" performances at Italia '90 will become more the norm than the exception in the very near future.

And it is easy to agree with those who see African football — provided it can get its act together off the field — dominating the world game in the next century.

★★★

Unlike the Youth World Cup in Portugal, which attracted crowds of over 112,000 for the semi-final and final, the under-17 series in the Tuscan region of Italy attracted virtually no-one.

Official paid attendances at the quarter-finals were 512 for Spain-Germany, 135 for Australia-Argentina, 791 for Ghana-Brazil and 204 for USA-Qatar.

The final in Florence was watched by a paid attendance of 3888 spectators only!

These paltry figures prove that FIFA must stage their youth tournaments in the so-called "under-developed" soccer nations where the lure of professional football and fervent club support does not come above everything else as is the case with Italy, only the third choice, of course as a venue for the under-17s after Ecuador and Mexico pulled out for various reasons.

Marconi again the one to beat

NSL giants Marconi once again loom as the pacesetters in the new season that is about to blast-off.

The Fairfielders, backed by a booming social club, have once again bought well and refurbished their squad.

Gone from the scene are brilliant youth international Paul Okon, midfielder Peter Katholos and defenders Robbie Wheatley and Mark Jones.

However, the newcomers, Milan Blagojevic, Gus Carro and most probably Gary van Egmond and Andy Harper will more than make up for the losses.

Under coach Bert Mariani, the Fairfielders have had a fine pre-season preparation and are looking good once again.

There certainly is plenty of fine talent available for Mariani to work with.



BY TOM ANDERSON

However, the backbone of the Marconi outfit will be established stars such as Ian Gray, Tommy McCulloch, David Lowe and Jean-Paul de Marigny.

These players have 'been there and done that' in the NSL, many times before.

They know what is required to win a competition and no doubt will act accordingly.

Midfielder come striker John Markovski should also hit his peak this season, and his full potential will no doubt be forthcoming.

Also, young striker David Seal, who decided to have another year in the NSL before joining the expat ranks overseas, looks set once again to bang in the goals.

The strength of the Marconi club is its marvellous stability.

They have an administration second to none in Australian football.

Club president Tony Labbozzetta is now in his sixth term of office and is a man who presides by example.

The secret of success at any football club, anywhere in the world,

comes from a stable and strong board.

A lead must be shown at the top, if success is to be gained on the playing arena.

This is the situation at the Marconi club.

They are without doubt the most professional of all the NSL setups.

They are also an example for every other club to follow.

This week, coach Mariani was enthusiastic about the coming season.

"Although we finished fourth last season, I was not all that disappointed," Mariani said.

"It was a term when we took stock and decided the direction for the future.

"Now we know where we are going and how to get there.

"And with the talent available at the club, I'm sure the desired results will be forthcoming."

Like all leading clubs throughout the world, coming second is regarded as a disaster for the hard to please Marconi fans.

Nothing satisfies them but the number one spot.

This of course is only natural, in their lavish surroundings.

However, it doesn't always work like this.

Football is a fickle game and anything can happen throughout a season, and usually does.

Over the years, the



Ian Gray: Key Marconi player for new season.

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JUNIOR JOTTINGS . . .

Westfields take out the Commonwealth Bank Cup



Westfield High Cup winning team.



Westfield High skipper Sean Babic receives the Cup from Bill Turner.

BY DANE SKAFTE

A crowd of around 700 people turned out at Macquarie Field, Speers Point in Newcastle for the grand final of the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Soccer Cup.

With temperatures only reaching 10° for the evening, organisers were happy with the way the tournament was run.

The main game of the evening was between Shailer Park State High (Queensland) and Westfield Sports High from Sydney.

Westfield High opened the scoring in the first minute of play after a good run down the left wing by Pat Barilla who crossed the ball to find Sean Babic and he headed it home

from 5 metres to put Westfield 1-0 up, despite the desperate attempt to save it by Shailer Park keeper Garth McCulloch.

Westfield were very unlucky in the 10th minute of the match not to be 2-0 up, when Dahlbar Strbac hit a shot from 6 metres out only to deflect off the Shailer Park keeper and go out for a corner.

Shailer Park were very unlucky in the 15th minute when Adam Coppolino got a through ball with only the keeper to beat, but a good save by Zlatko Jovcevski denied the Queenslanders.

Westfield continued to dominate the first half and created many chances and went 2-0 up in the 24th minute, after a good cross by Strbac found Danny Mezzasalma on the right hand post and he

made no mistake.

Shailer Park were unlucky in the 25th minute when a shot by Brett Paterson from 30 metres out just went centimetres over the bar.

Both teams came out for the second half with a lot to prove and Shailer Park were more determined.

Westfield sealed the match 15 minutes into the second half, after a good ball by the mid-field found

Strbac, who scored from 5 metres out to beat the diving keeper. Shailer Park continued to fight back and tested the Westfield keeper on many occasions and eventually opened the scoring in the final minutes of the game. After a perfect solo run by Steven Enkelmann from 40 metres he placed the ball perfectly to beat the Westfields

keeper.

The final score Westfield High 3 defeated Shailer Park State High 1.

The Coaches Comments

The coach from Westfield High Dave Barrett, who plays for Sydney Olympic says this is his first year of teaching and coaching and he worked on mainly fitness and skills with his team.

The coach from Shailer Park, Dave Donaldson, was pleased that his team stuck to their guns and was very happy with his team's performance despite losing.

In the early games of the evening, Holy Cross Ryde 3 defeated Cardiff High 2.

In the playoff for 3rd and 4th, St Dominic's College 1 defeated Keira Technology High 0.

Robbie Wheatley reports . . .

Young Brad got the shock of his life at Glen Innes



YOUNG SOCCEROO STAR BRAD MALONEY

When Young Soccer star Brad Maloney visited Glen Innes recently for the running of their "Prime Television Northern Soccer carnival" he was in for a major surprise.

Unaware of the popularity of soccer in the area, together with huge interest created by Glen Innes President Mike Glennan and his team of workers, Brad was swamped by over 500 players in a day's celebration of soccer.

The event saw teams participating from Moree, Casino, Tenterfield, Grafton and Inverell who were playing their very first game of Rooball — the game where youngsters are introduced to the skills of soccer.

The event saw teams participating from Moree, Casino, Tenterfield, Grafton and Inverell who were playing their very first game of Rooball — the game where youngsters are introduced to the skills of soccer.

Hundreds of players aged between six and 10 had their first taste of the mini-game and coaches who attended the day commented on the speed of the game and the fact that the whole team was involved.

In speaking to associ-

ation officials and interested parents, Brad commented that "Glen Innes is doing a great job of promoting Rooball amongst the younger players which certainly gets them interested in the game."

"To involve kids so young in competition often takes the fun out of the game for them and they're not going to continue with it for very long."

Brad definitely enjoyed his weekend spent in Glen Innes and had "a great time" mixing with the local people and having a social kick around with the young players, helping them with their game in any way he could.

In what was described as the biggest PR day in the north, Brad did an incredible job with the young kids, signing everything that was put in front of him and making at least 500 instant supporters who will follow the 19 year-old's career for years to come.

The result of the carnival were, Winner, 6yrs Tenterfield Mohawks. Runner-up:

Glen Lilac. Winner, 7yrs Grafton Major Jets Runner-up: Glen Blues. Winner: 8yrs Casino. Runner-up: Glen Blues. Winner: 9yrs Grafton Westlawn Tigers. Runner-up: Glen Innes. Winner: 10yrs Grafton Westlawn Tigers. Runner-up: Inverell. Winner: 11yrs Casino. Runner-up: Inverell. 12yrs Glen Innes. Runner-up: Casino. Winner: 13yrs Grafton Westlawn Tigers. Runner-up: Inverell. Winner: 14/15yrs Joint winners — Grafton South Services/Glen Innes.

The next event will include teams from Newcastle, Gosford, Lismore, Grafton, Taree, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie together with teams from this year's carnival, according to local officials.

The success of the weekend was complemented by the efforts of Brad Maloney who worked overtime with local television, radio and newspaper requests.

Plans are already under way for next year's registration day, as well as the 1992 carnival.

Griffith remembers



Walter Valeri

ACT BRIEFS

BY GRAHAM COOKE

★ FIL BOTTALECO, who died recently will principally be remembered for his connections with Quit National League club Apia-Leichhardt where he filled the roles of player, captain, coach and director of marketing over three decades.

What may not be so well known is that for a season he was successful team boss in the ACT League.

Juventus coach Walter Valeri recalls Bottalico guiding Griffith to the 1971 championship — the first and only time it has won the title.

I remember because he gave me my league debut in that year at the age of 16," Valeri said.

Also in the squad was Valeri's brother, Mano, who top-scored with 19 goals. Wally Conlon and Mick Black.

He was a hard taskmaster, Valeri said. "Under Fil we were a pretty disciplined lot."

Valeri later resumed the relationship when he played under Bottalico for Apia in the 1983 season.

★ SOCCER IS no longer a matter of just going out and playing the game, the ACT has said in a memo to member clubs.

Senior ACT clubs are signing increasing numbers of players on contract while all outfits, down to mini-soccer level, have responsibilities regarding public liability, coaches' indemnity and other legal matters.

Latest overseas results & tables

GREECE

Athinaikos 0 Olympiakos 3, Apollon 1 Larissa 0, Aris 0 AEK 0, Doxa 2 OFI 0, Corinthos 1 Panionios 2, Xanthi 2 Panachaiki 0, Serres 0 Iraklis 0, Pierikos 1 PAOK 2, Ethnikos 0 Panathinaikos 0.

STANDINGS

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Panathinaikos | 6 |
| Olympiakos | 6 |
| PAOK | 6 |
| Doxa | 5 |
| Apollon | 5 |
| Iraklis | 5 |

BELGIUM

Cercle Bruges 3 Charleroi 0, Anderlecht 2 Lokeren 1, Lierse 3 Club Bruges 2, Standard Liege 1 Molenbeek 1, Ghent 3 Waregem 0, Antwerp 2 Bevieren 1, Genk 0 Mechelen 1, Kortrijk 1 Ekeren 1, Alost 0 FC Liege 2.

STANDINGS

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Anderlecht | 12 |
| KV Mechelen | 11 |
| FC Brugge | 9 |
| CS Brugge | 9 |
| Ghent | 8 |
| Standard | 8 |
| Genk | 7 |
| Antwerp | 7 |

PORTUGAL

Beira Mar 1 Sporting 0, Braga 2 Torreense 1, Famalicao 2 Maritimo 2, Farense 1 Chaves 1, Penafiel 0 Gil Vicente 0, Porto 2 Pacos Ferreira 0, Salgueiros 1 Boavista 1, Union Madeira 0 Guimaraes 2, Benfica 2 Estoril 0.

STANDINGS

| | |
|------------|---|
| Guimaraes | 7 |
| Boavista | 7 |
| Chaves | 7 |
| Porto | 6 |
| Benfica | 6 |
| Salgueiros | 6 |

HOLLAND

Vitesse 2 Feyenoord 1, Den Haag 2 Groningen 2, Ajax 5 De Graafschap 1, Sparta 2 Utrecht 1, Twente 3 Sittard 1, Dordrecht 2 MVV 3, Willem II 1 Volendam 1, Roda 1 RKC 0.

STANDINGS

| | |
|---------|----|
| Vitesse | 13 |
| Twente | 10 |
| Sparta | 10 |
| Ajax | 9 |
| RKC | 9 |

FRANCE

Le Havre 2 St Etienne 1, Lille 1 Rennes 1, Lyon 1 Toulon 1, Marseille 1 Lens 1, Monaco 1 Nimes 1, Montpellier 3 Sochaux 2, Nancy 1, Toulouse 1, Nantes 2 Auxerre 0, Paris St Germain 3 Metz 0, Cannes 2 Caen 0.

STANDINGS

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Monaco | 17 |
| Marseille | 16 |
| P. St. German | 15 |

REP. OF IRELAND

Bray Wanderers 0 St Patrick's Athletic 1, Derry 2 Athlone 0, Duncalk 3 Cork City 0, Galway 4 Bohemians 4, Shamrock 2 Sligo 0.

STANDINGS

| | |
|---|----|
| Stal Stalowa Wola 0, | 6 |
| Hutnik Krakow 1 Gornik Zabrze 2, Legia Warszawa 0 Zagłębie Lubin 0. | 6 |
| Vitesse | 13 |
| Twente | 10 |
| Sparta | 10 |
| Ajax | 9 |
| RKC | 9 |

GERMANY

Bayern Munich 3 Eintracht Frankfurt 3, VFB Stuttgart 4 Kaiserslautern 1, Borussia Dortmund 2 SV Hamburg 2, Nuremberg 2 Kickers Stuttgart 0, Werder Bremen 1 Hansa Rostock 0, Bayer Leverkusen 4 Dynamo Dresden 0, SC Karlsruhe 1, Fortuna Duesseldorf 5, SG Wattenscheid 1, VFL Bochum 2, Borussia Moenchengladbach 2, Colonia 2, MSV Duisburg vs Schalke.

STANDINGS

| | |
|----------------|----|
| VFB Stuttgart | 14 |
| E. Frankfurt | 13 |
| Bayer L. | 13 |
| SV Hamburg | 13 |
| Nuremberg | 11 |
| Kaiserslautern | 11 |
| Bayern M. | 11 |
| Borussia D. | 11 |
| Werder Bremen | 11 |

SWISS

Grasshoppers 2 Aarau 1, Wettingen 1 FC Zurich 1, Young Boys 2 Servette 0, Sion 0 Neuchatel Xamax 0, Lucerne 1, Lugano 0, Lausanne 1 St Gallen 1.

STANDINGS

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Grasshopper | 18 |
| Lausanne | 16 |
| Sion | 16 |
| Young Boys | 13 |
| Lucerne | 13 |
| Servette | 11 |
| Nugano | 11 |
| Neuchatel | 10 |
| FC Zurich | 9 |
| St Gallen | 9 |
| Aarau | 8 |
| Wettingen | 8 |

POLAND

Slask Wroclaw 2 GKS Katowice 1, Motor Lublin 0, Stal Mielec 1, LKS Lodz 0, Pogromie Debica 0, Olimpia Poznan 1, Lech Poznan 2, Zaglebie Sosnowiec 1 Wisla Krakow 0, Zawisza Bydgoszcz 3 Widzew Lodz 0, Ruch Chorzow.

STANDINGS

| | |
|--------------|---|
| D. Bucharest | 8 |
| P. Ploiesti | 8 |
| S. Bucharest | 7 |



Real Madrid star Michel squeezing "the most secret private part" of Valladolid's Carlos Valderrama during a recent game. The action cost Michel \$6000 in a fine!

| | |
|--|---|
| P. Timisoara | 6 |
| E. Craiova | 6 |
| TURKEY | |
| Bakirkoyspor 1 Adabiremispur 1, Fenerbahce 3 Ankaragucu 0, | |
| Samsunspor 0 Sariyer 2, Galatasaray 2, Konyaspor 1, Altay 3, Genclerbirligi 2, Gaziantepspor 1, Besiktas 2, Aydinspor 2, Boluspor 1, Bursaspor 2, Trabzonspor 1. | |

ROMANIA

Electroputere Craiova 1 Steaua Bucharest 1, ASA Electromotors 2 F.C. Brasov 2, Dinamo Bucharest 4 Politehnica Timisoara 1, Otelul Galati 1 F.C. Arges Pitesti 1, Sportul Studentesc 1 Gloria Bistrita 1, Petrolul Ploiesti 3 F.C. Inter Sibiu 1, Progresul Bratia 1, Rapid Bucharest 0, Corvinul Hunedoara 0, Farni Constanta 1, F.C. Bacau 0 Universitatea Craiova 0.

STANDINGS

| | |
|--------------|---|
| D. Bucharest | 8 |
| P. Ploiesti | 8 |
| S. Bucharest | 7 |

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Boniek lasts five hours as Pisa coach

Zibi Boniek and Pisa have established a record which is going to be very hard to beat. Boniek lasted as Pisa coach for... five hours.

It all happened when previous Pisa coach Giannini resigned. Pisa were supposed to be hot favourites for promotion to First Division, but they started the season with three losses in a row. The club president, Romeo Anconetani, called Boniek in Rome and everything seemed fine.

But, apparently, Boniek wanted his own assistant coach and Anconetani refused. Then, a fiery meeting and the divorce, at four o'clock in the morning in a Pisa hotel.

★★★

Genoa made their debut in a European Cup when they played Oviedo in the UEFA Cup. Six-thousand faithful supporters made the trip to Spain where they saw their team beaten 1-0. And when the referee refused to send Lacatus off after he punched Caricola, an unknown Genoa supporter hit the Oviedo goal keeper.

★★★

Trapattini, the Juventus coach, was criticised after the match against AC Milan for playing too defensively. His answer? "If I had had one more defender, I would have brought him on." Trapattini then went on and blamed Kohler for seeking treatment just when Milan scored the equaliser in injury time.

★★★

New Inter Milan coach, Orrico is already under fire. He has finally managed to join a top class team at the ripe old age of



Juventus' 'Toto' Schillaci is airborne as he shoots for goal.

50. And he is not handling the pressure too well. The main criticism levelled at him is that he is changing the team far too often.

★★★

Some Torino supporters played a joke on their Juventus rivals. They circulated a press release in which Juventus supporters were invited to a non-existent Cup match against Fourth Division Novara. Supporters were then invited to watch Torino play in the

UEFA Cup, on television. Juventus are out of the European cups for the first time after 22 years.

★★★

Last week we told you about the death of Concetto Lo Bello, one of Italy's top referees. His son is now a First Division referee. And AC Milan "fans" decided to "celebrate" the father's death by displaying the following sign: "After the father, his son too."



STANDINGS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Lazio | 6 |
| Juventus | 6 |
| AC Milan | 6 |
| Sampdoria | 5 |
| Foggia | 5 |
| Genoa | 5 |
| Napoli | 5 |
| Parma | 5 |
| AS Roma | 5 |
| Internazionale | 4 |
| Torino | 3 |
| Fiorentina | 3 |
| Atalanta | 2 |
| Bari | 2 |
| Cagliari | 2 |
| Cremonese | 2 |
| Verona | 2 |
| Ascoli | 1 |

NEXT ROUND: Cagliari-Torino, Cremonese-Atalanta, Fiorentina-Roma, Foggia-Parma, Juventus-Bari, Lazio-Inter, Milan-Genoa, Napoli-Verona, Sampdoria-Ascoli.

SOUTH AMERICA

with
Mario Etchart

Brazil very confident about USA '94

BRAZILIANS are confident they can maintain their record as the only country to have played in every World Cup soccer final series, following the draw for the South American qualifying groups for the 1994 competition.

The draw, made in Asuncion at the weekend placed Brazil in Group A with Colombia, Peru, Paraguay and Venezuela. It is considered the easier group as the top two teams qualify automatically for the 1994 finals.

World Cup runners-up Argentina were drawn in Group B from which only the top team qualify automatically. The second team play off for a final place against the winners of a match between the Oceania group champions and the CONCACAF group runners-up.

Argentina face Bolivia, Ecuador and arch-nivals Uruguay.

Chile were banned from the 1994 competition by the International Football Federation (FIFA) after walking off the pitch during a World

Cup qualifying match in Brazil in 1989.

Brazilians, whose team were beaten by Wales last Wednesday, were happy with the draw.

"Brazil received a big favour," the Estado news agency said.

"They will play Venezuela, the worst team on the continent, and will not have to adapt to the altitude of Bolivia or Ecuador."

Draw Group A: Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela; Group B — Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia, Uruguay.

FIFA however said they had not sanctioned the South American World Cup "qualifying draw" carried out in Paraguay.

The draw, for the South American qualifying groups for the 1994 finals was made in the Paraguayan capital Asuncion last week at an executive committee meeting of the South American Football Confederation (CSF).

The 1990 tournament in Italy attracted 123 entries, the previous highest figure.

It also said new members such as the Baltic states would not be admitted until they had

Position

"Contrary to other reports, the FIFA Organising Committee will decide on the group draw for the various confederations in New York in December," FIFA said in a statement.

A FIFA spokesman said that included the South American confederation and added, "The (Asuncion) draw was not FIFA-sanctioned."

She could not say what action FIFA would take about the draw.

CSF administrative manager Francisco Figueredo Brito admitted in Paraguay that the final decision lay with FIFA but the draw was "the position of the CSF and the member federations."

FIFA said a record 13 countries have entered for the 1994 finals, which are being held for the first time in the United States.

The 1990 tournament in Italy attracted 123 entries, the previous highest figure.

Organised gangs of supporters clashed in front of the main gate and had to be separated

been recognised by the United Nations.

New memberships could only be decided in any case by the full FIFA Congress, the next one of which would be held in Zurich in July 1992, it added.

South Africa, expelled from the body in 1976, would also have to wait until the July congress before it could be readmitted. FIFA said

Four people were shot and wounded and 47 suffered other injuries in clashes between rival Brazilian soccer supporters armed with guns, home-made bombs, sticks, stones and knives.

The trouble began three hours before the start of the Rio de Janeiro championship match between Flamengo and Vasco da Gama, watched by 70,000 supporters at the Maracana Stadium.

Gaucho of Flamengo and Geovani of Vasco also came to blows but the referee took no action.

by police using tear gas.

Four people were shot during the fight — three in the stomach and one in the leg — and were taken to a nearby hospital where they were under observation, police said.

Fighting continued inside the stadium as fans threw home-made bombs and stones at each other.

One fan was taken to hospital after a bomb landed on his foot.

Outside the stadium, another bomb narrowly missed a passing bus.

Police said seven people were arrested, one carrying a revolver.

There was also violence on the pitch as Flamengo came from behind to win 2-1.

Franca of Vasco and Charles of Flamengo were sent off for fighting in the first half while five other players were booked.

Gaucho of Flamengo and Geovani of Vasco also came to blows but the referee took no action.

BANNED superstar

Diego Maradona has had discussions abo-



DIEGO MARADONA

director Tim Latta.

"It's more fact-finding than negotiations, but, yes, we have had negotiations."

The Argentinian World Cup star was banned by the Italian League for 15 months in April after testing positive for cocaine while playing for first division side Napoli.

The ban is recognised by FIFA, thus making Maradona ineligible to play in FIFA-affiliated countries and leagues.

FIFA press officer Guido Tognoni confirmed today that since the US Soccer Federation is a member of FIFA and the MSL a member of the USSF, Maradona could not play for the Sockers.

"He is not allowed to play."

"The ban applies to all nations who are members of FIFA, so he has no possibility to play in the United States," Tognoni said.

Following his ban from soccer, Maradona went to Argentina, where he was arrested for cocaine possession and faces legal proceedings.

Euro Cup results

Reigning European Cup champions Red Star Belgrade kicked off their title defence a day ahead of the rest, securing a 4-0 first-leg advantage over Northern Ireland's Portadown last Tuesday in Szeged, Hungary.

All Yugoslav clubs are playing their "home" matches outside the strife-torn country.

Sampdoria, aiming to restore Italian rule in the Champions' Cup after AC Milan's two-year reign was ended last season, began confidently with a 5-0 success over Norway's Rosenborg in Genoa.

Attilio Lombardo and Beppe Dossena scored two apiece and Brazilian Silas netted the other for Sampdoria, Cup Winners' Cup champions of 1990.

Barcelona, who beat Sampdoria in the 1989 Cup Winners' Cup final, made a satisfactory start to their Champions Cup campaign, gaining a 3-0 first-leg lead over Hansa Rostock to take to Germany for the return.

Danish striker Michael Laudrup scored twice and Juan Goikoetxea added the third as Barcelona, beaten by England's Manchester United in last May's Cup Winners' Cup final, gave the 82,700 crowd something to cheer.

Manchester United, one of the first two English clubs to return to European competition last season, were held to a goalless draw by Athinaikos as they opened their title defence in Greece.

Belgium's Anderlecht, four times winners of European trophies, were jeered off the pitch after they were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Switzerland's Grasshopper Zurich in the European Cup.

In Sofia, police said a group of Hungarian fans had attacked Bulgarian rivals with chains and iron bars before the Cup Winners' Cup match between Bulgaria's Levski Spartak and Hungary's Ferencvaros.

Two busloads of Hungarians were taken to a police station but later released. Ferencvaros won 3-2.

Liverpool returned to Europe in triumph with Dean Saunders scoring four times in their 6-1 home win against modest Finnish opposition.

Soviet marksman Sergei Yuran netted four times for his new Portuguese club, Benfica, in the 6-0 destruction of Maltese minnows Hamrun Spartans in the European Cup.

Marseille, beaten by Red Star Belgrade in last May's Champions' Cup final, warmed up for the new campaign by brushing aside Union Luxembourg 5-0 in the Grand Duchy.

Jean-Pierre Papin plundered a hat-trick — two brilliant volleys and a penalty — and Daniel Xuereb and Franck Sauzee scored the others as French clubs claimed four wins in four games in the three European competitions.

New Zealand striker Wynton Rufer banged in a quick-fire hat-trick for Werder Bremen, scoring in the ninth, 13th and 32nd minutes as the Germans routed FC Bacau in a Cup Winners' Cup match in Romania.

Dutch striker Wim Kieft was sent off and fellow international Gerald Vanenberg booked for protesting against a penalty award which enabled Turkey's Besiktas to achieve a 1-1 draw against former holders PSV Eindhoven in the Champions' Cup in Istanbul.

Mehmet Ozdilek scored from the spot 10 minutes from time to equalise Juul Ellereman's 27th-minute opener for PSV, winner of the trophy in 1988.

Aussie Lou Hristodoulou scored both Panathinaikos goals in their away 2-2 draw to Fram in Iceland in the Champions' Cup.

CHAMPIONS' CUP: Red Star Belgrade 4; Portadown 0; Kaiserslautern 2; Velez Tarragona 0; Universitatea Craiova 2; Apollon Limassol 0; Sparta Prague 1; Glasgow Rangers 0; Hammarby Spartans 0; Benfica 6; Besiktas 1; PSV Eindhoven 1; Brondby 2; Lubin 0; Kspel Honved 1; Dundalk 1; HJK Helsinki 0; Dynamo Kiev 1; Goteborg 0; Flamuritrija 0; Fram Reykjavik 2; Panathinaikos 2; Anderlecht 1; Grasshopper Zurich 1; Sampdoria 5; Rosenborg 0; US Luxembourg 0; Marseille 5; Barcelona 3; Hansa Rostock 0; Arsenal 6; Austria Vienna 1.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP: Hajduk Split 1; Tonham 0; Glenavon 3; Ilves 2; Swansea 1; Monaco 2; Bacau 0; Werder Bremen 6; Athinaikos 0; Manchester United 0; Katowice 2; Motherwell 0; Partizani Tirana 0; Feyenoord 0; Levski Sofia 2; Ferencvaros 3; Eisenhuttenstadt 1; Galatasaray 2; CSKA Moscow 1; AS Roma 2; Omonia Nicosia 0; FC Brugge 2; Odense 0; Banik Ostrava 2; Norrkoping 4; Jeunesse Esch 1; Fyllingen 0; Atletico Madrid 1; Valur 0; Sion 0.

UEFA CUP: Xamax Neuchatel 2; Flora 0; Anorthosis Famagusta 1; Steaua Bucharest 2; Ghent 0; Lausanne 1; HASK Gradijski 2; Trabzonspor 3; Ikast 0; Auxerre 1; Hamburg 1; Juventus Zofingen 1; Savoia 5-0; 1; Osasuna 0; Vac Izzo 1; Dynamo Moscow 0; Sporting Lisbon 1; Dinamo Bucharest 0; Cork City 1; Bayern Munich 1; Vlaz.

Dramatic Italian league action involving Pin of Verona and Muzzi (left) of Roma.

Tough task for Norway in the European Cups

TWO of the three clubs representing Norway in this season's European cups are relatively inexperienced in international football.

Fyllingen and Tromsø were quite successful on the domestic scene last year, and looked forward to first-round battles, with Atletico Madrid and FC Tirol respectively last week.

Fyllingen were promoted only a couple of seasons ago and lost the FA Cup Final against Rosenborg last year.

In their first season in the top division they chose to play their

home matches on their local artificial pitch, which caused a lot of controversy among other clubs.

This season, however, they abandoned the plastic and play in a stadium in Bergen.

It doesn't seem that the change to normal grass has done the team any harm.

They still pick up enough points to safeguard their First Divi-

sion existence.

The success of this small club from the outskirts of Bergen is quite amazing.

Less than a decade ago they played in the local Fifth Division.

Then they started climbing and did not stop before they were in the top league.

A stable squad and the occasional supply of former Brann players, mixed with intense

local support, made their success possible.

The club owe much of their success to two brothers, Pet Ove and Inge Ludvigsen.

The first is versatile, scores goals and helps out in defence when necessary, and Inge is the dominant central defender.

Central defenders Tor Andre Grenersen also had a good season.



HIGUITA'S ANSWER!

ECCENTRIC goalkeeper Rene Higuita has provided the answer all his coaches ever wanted.



RENE HIGUITA

Asked who could persuade him to stay within the limits of his own penalty area, the world's most controversial 'keeper immediately replied "Brooke Shields".

But while waiting for his dream to come true, Higuita moved to Spain where he joined his former national team boss Valadolid coach Francisco Maturana.

BALTICS BACKED

DENMARK has asked FIFA and UEFA to grant membership to the three newly-independent Baltic states Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

The Danish Football Association (DBU) said it had written to both bodies making the request on behalf of the five Scandinavian nations linked in the Nordic Council.

The DBU said it could not at present allow Danish soccer teams to play Lithuanian sides because Lithuania had withdrawn from the Soviet soccer union as part of its drive for independence from Moscow.

The Soviet Union now recognises the independence of the Baltic states.

Members of FIFA and UEFA can play only against teams from countries that are also members of the two organisations.

This means Lithuania is at present out in the cold in soccer terms, while matches against Estonian and Latvian teams have to be arranged through the Moscow authorities.

Mixed Austrian fortunes

FK Austria were in an optimistic mood when the First Division Austrian season began a month ago.

They celebrated 80 years of existence by winning their 20th championship, not least thanks to their former playmaker Herbert Prohaska, underestimated and often unjustly criticised as team coach.

FK's commercial chief, Juschi Walter, upstaged his rivals by "recovering" his pet player, Andreas Ogris, from Spain — at a huge profit.

Ten months ago Ogris went on loan to Espanol of Barcelona for \$135,000.

With a proportion of this money the club signed Lithuanians Valdas Ivanauskas and Arminas Narbekovas, who were instrumental in winning the championship.

The club now have these two and Ogris, at no extra charge!

Meanwhile, FK's rivals have little to smile about.

The dethroned FC Tirol are building their hopes around a Ghanaian, Sarfo Gyamfi



HANS KRANKL

who last season was not even good enough for the bench, but has now blossomed in spectacular fashion.

A big blow to Tirol was the departure of their striker, the Czechoslovak Vaclav Danek, for a meagre \$560,000 to Le Havre.

His replacement is a little-known Brazilian, Carvalho da Silva.

Rapid complain that they are in deep financial straits, and are weakened by the departure of the dynamic Costa Rican World Cup star Hernan Medford.

Manager Hans Krankl played down their ambitions. "I am only looking for a place among the top eight"

but after six matches Rapid were doing well.

Austria's oldest club, First Vienna are tottering on the brink of ruin, three years before celebrating their 100th anniversary.

There is no money in the till, no team worthy of the name... only the bleak prospect of being



the whipping boys in the First Division.

Swiss bosses in the news

MANAGERS have been making most of the news in the early part of the new Swiss season.

Grasshoppers, the champions, caused the biggest commotion when they tried to get Roy Hodgson, who is none too popular with followers of Neuchatel Xamax.

The Xamax president, Gilbert Facchetti had hopes of getting the national team's coach, Uli Stielike, to combine two jobs, but the Swiss FA refused to release him.

With Facchetti insisting that Hodgson should see out his contract, Grasshoppers gave their job to Ondrich Svab, the 47-year-old Czech who had been assistant to Ottmar Hitzfeld, now with Borussia Dortmund.



Svab's first game in charge was a 4-0 defeat by Aarau, but Grasshoppers hit form — and five goals — in their next match, against St Gallen.

Three more defeats followed in succession for St Gallen, without a goal, so fans were not unnaturally angry with their manager, Australian Kurt Jara.

Hodgson, too, was having a thin time with Xamax, but at least he stayed out of trouble — unlike Friedel Rausch of Lucerne.

Rausch lost his temper when international striker Adrian Knup was sent off for grabbing the linesman's flag after an offside decision.

On went Rausch to protest... off he went at once, shown the red card. A suspension and a fine of at least \$2,800 will follow.

A Belgian, Jan Thisen, is now in charge at Servette, and another German, Wolfgang Frank, has gone to Wettingen.

The four First Division clubs who were eliminated in the championship play-offs all won their places back, so the 12 teams remain the same as last year.

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER



Former Bulgarian national team libero Georg Dimitrov, who has played in France and in Israel, is now on the books of Swedish outfit Linkoping.

Herbert Waas is back from Italy. The German midfielder who won the 1988 UEFA Cup with Bayer Leverkusen, has been loaned by Bologna to Hamburg for one season.

Miguel Company, the Peruvian national team coach who was sacked after his side's feeble performances at the recent Copa America in Chile, is the new supremo of America Cali, of Colombia.

Englishman Gordon Milne, 53, has renewed his contract as coach of Turkish club Besiktas for another two seasons. The former Liverpool star, who has been with the Istanbul team since 1987, is the highest paid man at Besiktas earning more than the club's star player, Turkish international Ali Gultiken.

Stevan Stojanovic, who won the European Champions' Cup with Red Star Belgrade last season, is still only the number three choice goalkeeper at his new Belgian club, Antwerp. No.1 is Belgian veteran Wim De Cominck and No.2 is another Yugoslav, Radko Svilic.

Another foreign player has joined Standard Liege of Belgium 20-year-old attacking midfielder Stijn (we kid you not) Rives, one of the Venezuelan revelations of the recent Copa America.

Alan Simonsen, the former star of Borussia Monchengladbach, Barcelona and captain of the Danish national team, will start coaching First Division Danish side Vejle on January 1.

Did you know that Nestor Chamorro, centre-forward of LDU Quito champions of Ecuador, is a deaf mute? Making his debut against Emelec, he scored a hat trick.

Barcelona beat Marseille 3-0 in the final of their traditional late August Juan Gamper tournament at Nou Camp Stadium. In the semi-finals, Marseille beat Porto Alegre of Brazil 2-1 and Barcelona defeated Rapid Vienna 4-1.

Jurgen Sundermann is now coaching in former East Germany. He is in charge of VfB Leipzig, the former Lokomotiv Leipzig, now in an all-German amateur league. Sundermann recently coached Strasbourg of France and Swiss team Servette.

Algerian veteran Rabah Madjer will sign with Tunisia's top club next week. The Porto veteran is expected in Tunis at the weekend to clinch a deal with Esperance Sportive.

In view of the increased activities in the legal sector, UEFA plans to set up a special legal committee. This body will consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and the number of members deemed necessary by the Executive Committee, all of whom must have a law degree or equivalent. The new committee will draw up legal reports and statements in connection with all cases, litigations and enquiries which are submitted to it by the UEFA General Secretariat, and which do not fall within the jurisdiction of the UEFA Disciplinary authorities.

Piet Den Boer, the veteran Dutch striker who played for Caen in France last season after two years with Bordeaux, has abandoned professional football to join Fourth Division Belgian club FC Tielen. Den Boer won the 1987/88 European Cup-Winners' Cup with Mechelen.

Luxembourg's best known player, striker Robby Langers, has been transferred from demoted Nice to fellow French Riviera-based side Cannes.

Eintracht Frankfurt's Ghanaian international striker Anthony Yeboah is back in training after being sidelined with malaria for six months — a sickness he contracted while visiting his homeland.

Feyenoord beat PSV 1-0 in the Dutch Super Cup. The goal was scored by Romanian Marian Damachin. Two players were sent off in a rough game.

Albanian international striker Sulejman Demolli, is an instant hit in Romania, with Dinamo Bucharest. One of many Albanians now operating abroad, he scored two goals in his league debut and is the Romanian Division One's leading goalscorer after three rounds.

Pippo Psayla is the new national team coach of Malta, whose next Euro-92 qualifier is against Greece on December 22. While Group 6 is still wide open with Holland, Portugal and Greece all in the running, and with several games to play, Malta have played all but one of their qualifiers.

Wladyslaw Stachurski, coach of Legia Warsaw, is headed for the United Arab Emirates. He will replace fellow-Pole Krzysztof Elmanowicz at the Al-Ettali club.

Olimpia Asuncion and America of Mexico will meet in the Inter-American Cup final on October 3 and 12 in Asuncion and Mexico City.

Another Italian strike is mooted

FOR the second time in a week, a leading Italian player proposed a strike — this time in protest against the poor state of the country's pitches.

Earlier, AC Milan's Dutch international Ruud Gullit proposed a strike in protest against crowd violence in Turin and Verona which marked the opening day of the league season.

Sampdoria's Roberto Mancini has joined the fray by suggesting players should protest against the poor condition of top grounds in Genoa, Milan, Rome and Turin.

Cyprus also catches the transfer bug!

spectacular goal against Scotland in a World Cup qualifier, for \$280,000.

Cup-winners Omonoia have signed the AEL defender Constantinou for \$250,000, and last year's runners-up, Anorthosis, have completed the signing of Aki's Tsangaris for \$220,000.

Champions Apollon have been quiet, signing only Aris keeper Nicolaou for \$90,000.

AEL and Salamina have spent large sums for promising under 21 internationals Antoniou and Robos.

The coming and going of foreign players has continued, with Omonoia securing the Yugoslav duo of Totic and Music, and Anorthosis signing Ketsipayia from Dynamo Tbilisi.

But perhaps the boldest move came from 1990 champions Apoel, who engaged Yiatek Gmoch, manager of Poland in the 1978 World Cup, for a record \$200,000 annual salary.

Pampos Pittas, star defender for Cypriot champions Apollon.

CYPRIOT clubs have been busy in the transfer market with Pezoporikos of Larnaka smashing the record fee for local players by signing Salamina international defender Floros Nicolaou, scorer of a

Cruyff fined!

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff has been fined \$6,000 for criticising a referee and has hit out at the secrecy surrounding the punishment.

Cruyff complained to journalists after learning in the newspapers that the disciplinary committee had penalised him without even a hearing.

The Dutch ex-international star claimed that Real Mallorca had been put in

"an inferior position" by the referee's decisions at the Cup final against Atletico Madrid last July.

"I do not understand how I can be penalised without even explaining myself," he moaned.

Johan Cruyff and his latest Barcelona signing fellow-Dutchman Richard Witschge.

PRICE PUSH!

A nine per cent increase in the cost of admission will push prices in the Portuguese First Division to level between \$5 and \$20.

- Watching Portuguese football is not usually expensive even taking into account differences in living standards among the European countries.

But clubs in the top three divisions will be allowed to charge extra for any five games in the season, which means that supporters will have to pay more to watch games like Ben-

fica v Sporting or Porto v Benfica

The same will apply to European games, where the clubs can virtually charge at will.

Then watching soccer will not be so inexpensive after all.

As always the championship will be decided by the three major clubs Benfica, Porto and Sporting.



Uruguayan ace Enzo Francescoli scoring the first of his two goals when Cagliari beat champions Sampdoria 3-2 in the 1991-92 Italian league opener in Sardinia.

US WOMEN SEEK OLYMPIC STATUS



The US and Haitian women's national team captains before their World Cup qualifier at Port-au-Prince.

The members of the US Women's team are reaching for more than just a world championship: Women's soccer isn't part of the Olympics.

"Certainly, if there's synchronised swimming, there should definitely be women's soccer," said US Women's team coach Anson Dorrance, also coach for the women's team at the University of North Carolina.

It's a good argument, but not good enough to bring the sport to Barcelona in 1992.

The same will apply to European games, where the clubs can virtually charge at will.

First, there has to be a world championship.

So the World Cup for women is being held in China this November.

Twelve women's teams are participating in the FIFA women's World Cup, including the US squad.

The next step is a bid for Atlanta in 1996.

"I think for the American public to catch hold of something, a world championship isn't really that significant for them."

"I think what captures the hearts in women's athletics in the United States is the Olympics, and Olympic success," said Dorrance.

The US team consists of 18 women, most of them college graduates who played soccer in school.

They range in age from 20 to 27 and come from across the United States.

Compared to many long-lived European teams, the US women's team got its start relatively late, in 1985.

In international competition since 1988, the squad has posted 26 wins and 7 losses.

Many of the players say they are driven to promote soccer, along with women's athletics in general.

So far, they seem to be meeting their own demands.

Combined attendance at the Labor Day weekend Museum Cup a fortnight ago was 10,315, a record for a women's exhibition tournament, according to the US Soccer Federation.

The US team, along with Brazil, China and Germany, is favoured for a "medal" in China in November.

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION FOREIGNERS

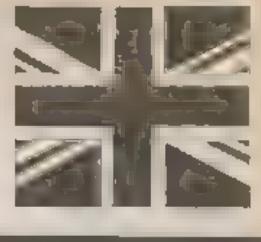
- BARCELONA: Koeman, Witschge (Hol), Laudrup (Den), Stoichkov (Bulg).
- REAL MADRID: Hagi (Rom), Prosinecki (Yugo), Rocha (Bra), Sanchez (Mex).
- AT. MADRID: Futre (Port), Rodax (Aus), Schuster (Ger).
- GIJON: Jordánov (Bul), Luhovy (Cze), Nilsson (Swe).
- OSASUNA: Spasic, Stevanovic (Yugo), Urban (Pol).
- OVIEDO: Jerkan, Gracan, Jankovic (Yugo), Lácatus (Rom).
- VALENCIA: Leonardo, Toni (Bra), Penev (Bul), Rommel (Panama).
- LOGRONES: Gutierrez (Uru), Polster (Aus), Mincic (Cze).
- REAL SOCIEDAD: Carlos Xavier, Oceano (Port).
- ZARAGOZA: Franco (Arg), Mateut (Rom), Poyet, Suarez (Uru).
- ESPANOL: Wuttke (Ger), Alfaro Moreno (Arg), Mijic (Yugo).
- VALLADOLID: Alvarez, Valderrama, Higuita (Col).
- SEVILLA: Bengoechea (Uru), Zamorano (Chile), Kostadinov (Bul).
- MALLORCA: Zaki, Hassan (Mor), Mendez (Uru).
- BURGOS: Juric, Barbanc (Yugo), Balint (Rom), Limperger (Hung).
- CADIZ: Vazquez, Ahmed (Arg), Szendrei (Hung).
- TENERIFE: Pizzi, Redondo, Dertycia (Arg).
- CORUNA: Stojadinovic, Kanatlarovski, Djukic (Yugo), Kinakov, Kikov (Bul).
- ALBACETE: Conejo (C Rica), Etcheverry (Col), Zalazar (Uru).
- BILBAO: None.

GENTO TOO GENTEEL

FRANCISCO Gento was the flying left winger who won a record six European Cups in the 1950s and 60s with Real Madrid.

The club hoped that one day he would pass on his expertise as team boss, but it never happened.

Now Gento has explained why. He says: "After 18 years of pressure as a player, I just wasn't ready to fight 25 players, 100,000 fans and the directors."



EDITED BY TOM ANDERSON

COME IN, DES



DES WALKER: battling the odds.

GAZZA HITS BACK!

PAUL Gascoigne last week accused the British media of paying people to cause trouble for him.

The Tottenham Hotspur midfielder, who is to be transferred to Lazio of Italy next year, made the allegation to BBC radio.

Asked about the pressures facing him, he said: "There's no pressures — just, I think, press guys paying people to go and cause trouble with us."

"Don't forget, these people who haven't got anything . . . they would love Stg5,000 (\$A11,000) or Stg10,000 (\$A21,850) put in their hands to run a story about Paul Gascoigne."

Gascoigne, 24, is recovering from a knee injury but was most recently in the news when a businessman claimed the soccer star was having an affair with his wife.

The player is reported to be planned to sue.



PAUL GASCOIGNE

He is also due to appear before Newcastle magistrates on September 30 accused of assaulting two men in a city centre fight.

Gascoigne said about his life, "People have got to realise I just want to play football. I love football too much for anything to affect us."

"People come up and say 'It's great how you handled the Press' — but the papers don't

mean anything to us."

What bothered him was people saying, "I see you're doing this or that again". When he asked them how they knew, they replied: "I have read it in the papers."

Gascoigne said he would probably return to football "probably stronger" — in January and was looking forward to his transfer to Italy.

SWOOP!

★ OLDHAM boss Joe Royle is ready to swoop for unhappy Manchester United goalkeeper Jim Leighton.

The former Scotland keeper, third in the Old Trafford pecking order behind Peter Schmeichel and Gary Walsh, is available at a cut-price £200,000 or on loan.

IPSWICH boss John Lyall, desperate to sign a centre-half, is keen on Darlington's Jim Willis.

SOUTHAMPTON have been watching Hartlepool left-back Rob McKinnon.

Former Manchester United striker Scott McGarvey has signed a two-year contract with French Third Division club Paris FC.

Anfield on Saturday — less than a month since surgery

Whelan said: "I am to be playing on Saturday — and I'm not talking about the A team."

"I need to start kicking a ball again in the next few days to make it, but I've been doing a lot of running and my knee is coming along fine."

Whelan has not played since Liverpool's derby win against Everton four weeks ago.

His return is also a boost for the Republic of Ireland. He added: "I will definitely be fit for our European Championship match in Poland on October 16."

Liverpool have John Barnes undergoing surgery on his Achilles tendon and the England star will not be back before Christmas.

Surgery

Barry Venison, Mark Wright, Glenn Hysen, Jan Molby and Jamie Redknapp are also out injured.

IPSWICH have signed John Wark for a third time.

The 34-year-old Scot Wark will be a non-contract player for the East Anglian club.

Wark has been avail-

Walker comeback boost for England

But the deal died when Clough said he would be interested only if superkid McManaman was involved, not Houghton.

SWOOP

Walker is now almost certain to be heading for Italy next summer.

It's in his contract that he can go abroad for a bargain £1.5 million.

Forest are ready to unload Garry Parker, Terry Wilson and Darren Wassall. They'll sell to add to the money brought in by Nigel

Jemson's £800,000 swoop for 26-year-old midfielder Parker this week.

The deal would take Big Ron's spending to nearly £5 million.

Another big spender, Blackburn backer Jack Walker, is ready for a bust-up with Barnsley over record buy Steve Agnew.

Walker is said to want the Oakwell club to pay back half the £750,000 laid out in the summer.

He believes the ankle injury which has put Agnew out for two months was damaged before the transfer.

RONNIE ROARS BACK

SKIPPER Ronnie Whelan is planning to ease Liverpool's injury crisis this week with a speedy return after a cartilage operation.

The key midfielder man's target is to face Sheffield Wednesday at

able on a free since leaving Middlesbrough last summer.

He first joined Ipswich as a 15-year-old, moving on to Liverpool in 1984 for £450,000. Wark went

back to Portman Road three years later and now comes another reunion.

Steve Sedgley has had talks about his future with Spurs chief Terry Venables.



RONNIE WHELAN



We're top of the League for the B-I-G soccer stories



JIM LEIGHTON

SCARRED

RALPH MILNE watched Manchester United's Cup Winners' Cup Final triumph over Barcelona with blood trickling down his face.

But he was left with deeper scars than those suffered in his bust up with apprentice Alan McReavie on the reserves' coach.

And he has been bitterly paying the rest of the price for those couple of minutes of madness.

The Scot, who was a European Cup hero with Dundee United, is fit, free and only 30. But he's had one foot put on the scrapheap through no fault of his own.

Third Division Bury are the only club to give him a break since leaving United — and they're only put him on trial for a month.

Milne believes soccer's cold shoulder treatment is because of a grapevine story that

Euro bust-up left me bleeding and on the scrapheap

he was kicked out of Old Trafford for bad behaviour in Amsterdam.

It's not true. And he bitterly regrets that boss Alex Ferguson has not done more to kill this gossip.

"He knows I was the innocent party," says Milne. "He told me so when I rang him after the first stories appeared."

"I hoped he'd put it right. But the rumour is still alive. Now I'm left doubly scarred. The ones I've got on my face

and the ones on my career!"

"I felt desperate I was starting to think I'd have to sign on the dole until Mickey Walsh was good enough to give me this break with Bury."

Promoted

Milne has reason to be sour. He'd been given a free transfer BEFORE the clash.

And he reckons there would have been no trouble if United had organised proper supervision on the Cup Winners' Cup trip.

There was no one of authority in charge of the kids because reserves coach Brian Whitehouse had been promoted to the first team when Archie Knox defected to Rangers.

Milne, the veteran of nearly 40 European games in Dundee United's great days, blasts: "I have never known a trip like it. For a club as big as United, it was a shambles."

"And the trouble was caused because the apprentices were left free

CELTIC SHOCKER BIG-MONEY BARI CHECK ON CHARLIE

CHARLIE NICHOLAS is being considered for a sensational move to join £5.5 million David Platt at Bari.

The Italian giants made a secret trip to Glasgow at the weekend and saw Charlie score from the penalty spot in Celtic's 3-1 win over Airdrie.

They're considering Nicholas for a year's loan when the Italian transfer market opens briefly again next month.

The 29-year-old has two years of his Parkhead contract to run but boss Liam Brady, who spent several years in Italy, would be unlikely to stop him going.

Nicholas has always expressed a desire to play abroad.

Before he left Aberdeen to join Celtic for £450,000 last summer, he was watched by French and Swiss scouts.

With eight goals in 11 games this season, it's clear he still knows the road to goal.

And that has prompted millionaire presi-

Bari have spent a whopping £13 million on EIGHT players in a bid to increase their profile over the summer.

Apart from England star Platt, midfielder Daniele Fortuno arrived from Juventus for £2.2 million and striker Frank Farina joined them from Brugge for £1.5 million.

But they have struggled this season and are without a win in their first three games.

He said: "There's no point in buying players simply to appease discontented fans. They have to be better than what we have."



CHARLIE NICHOLAS: Italy-bound?

ABSW TOP OF THE WORLD



Here it is — the best soccer action show of the week

FOR LIFE!

RALPH MILNE



blows the lid on Manchester United's battle in Europe

to drink and couldn't handle it."

The reserves and kids, lumped together, arrived on the day of the match and the problems started after an organised boat trip on the canal.

"The first drink was on the club," says Ralph. "And then it was up to you. So the kids went on the beer and by the time they got on the coach to go to the match two hours later, they were well tanked up.

"They brought more beer on to the coach, something that they'd never have done if Brian had been there."

"The kids were all in the back, making a lot of noise."

"But I sat and did nothing until a full can of beer flew across me and hit the seat in front. That did it!"

"If I'd just turned my head at the wrong time, it could have taken an eye out!"

Milne stormed to the back and demanded to

know which of the giggling players had nearly brained him.

"Nobody said anything at first. But I kept on. Eventually, one of them pointed at McReavie.

"I ripped into him, but all he said was 'So what?'" When I had an other go, he said, 'I'll get you kneecapped!'

"That was too much. I drew back my fist to let him have it but some of the lads grabbed me and held on. It was then McReavie's fingernails raked down the side of my face.

"The marks went so deep, I was still bleeding when I watched the

match. And shaving was a problem for a long time afterwards.

"It was all over in a couple of minutes and it was the kid who finished up crying. Not through anything I did. I hadn't touched him. I suppose it was shock."

"There was no more trouble. But it obviously worried the driver. He radioed the police. They pulled us into a layby but we got away with a warning."

That experience, ending the last two frustrating years at Old Trafford, leaves him regretting he was tempted to join United in a £170,000 deal in No-

vember 1988.

"If I had known how it would turn out, I'd never have gone."

"I was happy at Bristol City. Joe Jordan had got things moving and I was so settled I was just about to buy a house."

"I thought he was pulling my leg when he said United wanted for me and that Ferguson had asked for me to phone him."

"You don't turn down United, but now I wish I had. Ferguson never said how he was going to use me but I thought I was going as cover for Gordon Strachan."

"Instead, he sold Jesper Olsen and struck me out on the left. Well the fans had liked Jesper and they didn't take to me."

"Fair enough, I could take that. But they never saw me play where I've had all my successes, out on the right."

"And I arrived just when everyone was having a bad time."

Battle

Milne also suffered a hernia and an ill-fated loan period to West Ham just before Lou Macari quit Upton



LOU MACARI

Park

Last season was worse. He didn't get a first-team game and was a partner in misery for out-of-favour keeper Jim Leighton.

"All we could do was keep each other going. It was the worst time I have known in football. I was even humiliated by being sent to train with the apprentices."

"I never complained. Just bottled it up and took it home. But I couldn't understand why, if Ferguson didn't want me, he just didn't tell me to find myself another club and let me go."

That wasn't his only worry. Ralph's father, a retired baker, was in a battle against cancer. What with that and his

career nosediving, all he needed was his name to be wrongly blackened after Holland!

But he's determined to bounce back.

All he asks is that football gives him a break and some manager will do himself a favour picking up a man who has scored nearly 1000 goals in around 400 games.

Club moved in to stop lad selling stolen gear

ONE Old Trafford fringe player boosted his meagre earnings with stolen goods.

■ Ralph Milne says: "I believe a member of the staff even had a television set off him."

■ "He was a lad who just got in with the wrong crowd and needed to make extra money."

■ "He was never caught by the police over handling stolen goods, but I believe that was because the club got to him first. They found out and severely disciplined him."



BRYAN ROBSON

SUPER ROBBO

UNITED have started the season as if they're going to win the title. And Ralph Milne says: "I know it's happened before and the fans have had to swallow disappointment for 25 years."

■ "But now it could be different. How they get on depends on two things — if Bryan Robson stays fit and how Alex Ferguson handles having more discontented players around."

■ "I've never known anyone like Robbo for leadership. And he's got a hunger in him to

crown his career with the League title. While he's around, nobody slacks on the field. And there's an extra incentive for him. He'll be out to prove Graham Taylor wrong to chuck him out of the England set-up. As for Ferguson, the more he buys, the more discontent he'll have to cope with. Already, Neil Webb and Danny

Wallace have been making unhappy noises.

■ "And once everybody is fit Wibby or Paul Ince, Mike Phelan, Denis Irwin, Lee Martin, Russell Beardmore, and Mark Robins can expect to be on the outside looking in. If Alex Ferguson can keep them happy, he has a chance."

The B-I-G action pages

TOUGH, BRI

ABERDEEN 1
HIBS 1

ABERDEEN ended their depressing sequence of home defeats.

But the Dons were unable to give their fans the win that they so desperately wanted.

A confident Hibs side successfully defended their 100 per cent record thanks to an opportunist equaliser by Mickey Weir.

Character

"I thought it was a much better performance and that we did enough to win," said Dons boss Alex Smith.

"After Brian Grant

Grant nearly wins the day

scored I thought we were well on top.

"It's been a difficult week for us with the European defeat and losing Jocky Scott, but the players showed tremendous character with their performance today.

"You never have a crisis when you have good players in the dressing room."

Hibs boss Alex Miller was happy with a point in the end.

"I thought we showed them too

much respect in the first half," he said. "But it was a good yardstick to come here and play well against a side of Aberdeen's quality and with a bit of luck, we might have won the game."

Grant lifted the Pittodrie gloom with a superb goal in the 28th minute, heading home a Hans Gillhaus cross.

But Aberdeen were knocked back when Hibs equalised just after the break.

Weir picked up a loose ball on the half-way line and raced to the Dons' penalty area before clipping the ball past Theo Snelders.

Stretcher

Aberdeen played most of the match without defender David Winnie, who was taken off on a stretcher after a collision with Mark McGraw in the 18th minute.

BEST PLAYER: Weir
ABERDEEN: Snelders, Wright, Winnie, Grants, Irvine, McKimmie, Van De Ven, Bett, Watson, Ten Caat, Gillhaus.

HIBS: Burridge, Orr, Mitchell, Hunter, McIntyre, MacLeod, Weir, Hamilton, Wright, McGraw, McGinley.

'Well hit back to wreck it
for Scott

MOTHERWELL 3 DUNFERMLINE 0

MOTHERWELL shrugged off any remaining Euro hangover with a convincing victory over Premier strugglers Dunfermline.

The Fir Park side totally outclassed the opposition and if new Pars manager Jocky Scott had any doubts about the size of the task he faces it was all made very clear to him after only four minutes

That's how long his men stayed level

After his first game in charge, he said: "At times today my players showed that they have ability and they are comfortable on the ball.

"But it is clear to me

that they lack belief in themselves."

And following his side's midweek defeat in Poland, happy 'Well boss Tommy McLean said: "After the week we have had I am delighted with both points."

Defender John Philibben appeared in the Motherwell attack to crack home a superb 22-yard drive for the early opener.

Denfermline tried hard to get back into the game and impress their new boss, but their only real chance of the first period came in the 17th minute when Ian McCall — by far their best player — forced Billy Thomson into a good save.

The turning point came at the interval when Motherwell replaced the injured Jim Griffin with experienced midfielder Bobby Russell.

He set up the second goal in the 62nd minute, creating an opportunity for Jamie Dolan to sweep the ball home from 12 yards.

And Russell then scored a superb third in the 76th minute to put the issue beyond doubt.

BEST PLAYER: Russel

MOTHERWELL: Thomson, Griffin, Nijholt, Dohm, Philibben, McCart, McLeod, O'Donnell, Cusack, Kirk, Cooper.

DUNFERMLINE: Rhodes, Wilson, Cunningham, McCathie, Moyes, Sharp, Davies, McWilliams, McParland, McCall, Leitch.

MIKE LEGS IT

CELTIC 3 AIRDRIE 1

MODEST Mike Galloway hit the goal that sent Celtic on their way to their first League win in four games when he said: "I just stuck my leg out!"

Galloway, who had been pushed forward from his defensive role

by manager Liam Brady with the game locked at 1-1, got his killer goal in 71 minutes.

He swooped on a low left wing cross from Dariusz Wdowczyk to take the ball in full stride to beat goalkeeper John Martin from fully 20 yards.

It was an effort which brought relief to the fans and the players

Galloway is on his toes to boost Celtic

Fierce

It took Celtic a long time to recover from this shocker but they equalised shortly before the break through Joe Miller.

Tommy Coyne made it with a fierce cross shot across the goal following good work from

Wdowczyk and from point blank range Miller slammed the ball into the net.

Then two minutes after little Jimmy Royle was sent off, Galloway strode forward to hit the goal that turned the game.

With Lawrence carried off and Airdrie down to nine men, Celtic spent the closing minutes hammering the Airdrie goal and eventually scored in the final minute.

But even then, it was a penalty kick from Nicholas after Chris Ho-

DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

7 UP FROM AYR'S ACES

AYR gave boss George Burley a lift after two defeats by thrashing MEADOWBANK 7-0.

Gary Agnew, Paul McLean and Duncan George all scored their first goals for United. Greg Shaw (2), Ally Graham and Ian McAllister got the others.

League leaders DUNDEE had to fight for their 2-1 win over KILMARNOCK. Willie Jamieson got a late winner after Steve Campbell's penalty equalised Bobby Williamson's opener.

MORTON boss Alan McGraw praised his side's "terrific fightback" after going behind to an Alan

McKenzie opener for RAITH ROVERS. Ex-Celt Alex Mathie equalised.

STIRLING had goalkeeper Mark McGowan sent off for a professional foul on FORFAR's Stewart Petrie at Annfield.

Forfar took advantage and their 3-1 win moved them off bottom spot.

Charlie Adam (2) and Paul Paton scored for Forfar, with Vinnie Moore converting a penalty for Stirling.

George Shaw got PARTICK THISTLE's winner against MONTROSE, and HAMILTON kept up their unbeaten home run in a goalless match against CLYDEBANK.

There was no mistaking the delight in Liam Brady, who admitted: "We badly needed this victory, I have to praise the fans for their support because they showed great patience after we gave away an early goal and almost lost another."

Airdrie took a deserved lead after 17 minutes through Kenny Black following a superb burst from Lawrence.

As the ball came into the box Owen Coyle stuck out a foot and before the Celtic defence could cover the deflection, Black was there to slide the ball over the goal line.



JOE MILLER

APOLOGY FOR RACIAL SLUR

CRYSTAL Palace chairman Ron Noades learned today that after apologising for remarks about black footballers he had escaped a possible charge of bringing the game into disrepute.

The players' trade union (PFA), outraged by Noades's comments on a recent television program, had voted to ask the English Football Association (FA) to take action.

SUPER SOCCER LEADERS ALL YEAR ROUND



JOHN ROBERTSON

GREAT GARY POINTS WAY FOR HEARTS

HEARTS 1
DUNDEE UTD 1

A VINTAGE second-half display from Gary Mackay was almost enough to help Hearts pull through for full points.

He set up the equaliser, forced Alan Main into two fine saves and was just wide with a couple of rasping drives all in space of 15 minutes.

Hearts manager Joe Jordan paid tribute to Mackay: "Gary is now more prominent in

games than he was previously and his work rate is tremendous. I thought that we played well considering the conditions and that we deserved both points."

And for once the managers saw things in the same light.

United boss Jim McLean said: "I am delighted with the point but disappointed about our overall performance particularly in the second half."

United had gone in at the interval one up thanks to a Duncan Ferguson goal.

But they failed to capitalise after the break. Despite playing with the wind behind them Henry Smith in the Hearts goal was a spectator throughout.

McLean suggested that a chest infection affecting playmaker Billy McKinlay didn't help his team's cause but added that this was no excuse for their poor showing.

Weather conditions undoubtedly played a vital part in the match, with torrential rain making the playing surface slippery while the wind played tricks

every time the ball was in the air.

Hearts chairman Wallace Mercer thanked fans for turning out in these terrible conditions, and added: "If ever there was an advert for an all-seated, all-covered stadium, the weather today provided it."

Wide

Hearts started in whirlwind fashion and Robertson was close with a right foot volley that spun wide of the target.

Hearts' aerial domination caused the United defence problems and both Dave McPherson and Graeme Hogg saw five headers fly past the post.

Goalkeeper Main had to be on his toes on two separate occasions as he raced from his box to thwart Robertson and his heroics created a platform for United to hit the front against the run of play.

Their first attack saw Hamish French find Dave Bowman on the right and his looping cross was guided home by Duncan Ferguson to present the visitors with a most unlikely lead.

Main was back in action just before the interval displaying good handling to hold a 25 yarder from Ferguson.

Rebound

After the break Tosh McKinlay hit a tremendous 30-yard shot which cannoned back off the bar.

The United keeper was helpless to prevent Hearts 70th minute equaliser.

Mackay ran powerfully into the box, side-stepped two challenges and curled a shot towards the far corner of the net. The keeper did well to push the ball out but McKinlay was on hand to knock the rebound in from close range.

BEST PLAYER: Mackay.
HEARTS: Smith, Hogg, McKinlay, Levein, Mackay, McPherson, Crabbie, Ferguson, Penney, Millar, Robertson.

DUNDEE UNITED: Main, Clark, Malpas, Bowman, Van der Hoorn, Miller, McNally, McKinlay, French, Ferguson, Bolland.

RAIN-GERS!

ST MIRREN 1
RANGERS 2

RANGERS squelched their way to a watery win at rain-soaked Love Street.

But the game, which started explosively with two goals in the opening 11 minutes, ended up a bit of a damp squib.

In the end Rangers had Scott Nisbet to thank for taking them to within a point of Hearts at the top of the table.

Greasy
Nisbet headed in af-

Scott damps down Saints

ter a Pieter Huijstra corner rebounded to him off Maurice Johnston's nose!

His team-mate ran to salute the samba-dancing scorer. Johnston headed off with blood streaming down his face.

Nisbet's goal brightened up a drab second half and after it Rangers never looked like losing.

In fact, Les Fridge, was forced into great saves from an Ian Durrant freekick and a Mark Hateley shot.

Satisfied boss Walter Smith said: "After being away in Europe in midweek you're always pleased to get a result."

"The wind and rain made conditions difficult but I thought the pitch was good enough."

Sad Saints showed why they've yet to win a game. Although they got a dream start with a goal in the fourth minute, they failed to take advantage. Boss Davie Hay said: "When we went in front we almost apologised. There was no confidence in the team."

"It's a pity because Rangers definitely showed a reaction to playing in Europe."

He added wryly: "Now we face a relegation battle against Dunfermline next week and it's still September!"

Flicked

Saints went in front when Brian Martin took a Paul Lambert pass and his 25-yard drive was deflected off Richard Gough over Andy Goram's head.

But Rangers hit back when Huijstra beat Kevin McGowrie to a Gary Stevens cross and flicked over Fridge.

Saints failed to trouble Goram after that, although they did have penalty claims waved away when Gough appeared to handle a cross. They also had three defenders — Roddy Manley, Mark Reid and Roy Aitken — booked.

Reid was lucky to stay on the park after a wild tackle on Hateley, who was also yellow-carded.

SIMON'S STUNNER

ST JOHNSTONE 2
FALKIRK 3

A WONDER goal by Bairns skipper Simon Stainrod was the highlight of a five-goal thriller at McDiarmid Park.

Stainrod stunned the crowd in 41 minutes when he beat Saints keeper Lindsay Hamilton direct from the kick-off after the home side had just scored from the penalty spot.

"Only Simon could score a goal like

that," said Falkirk boss Jim Jefferies.

The visitors got off to a great start, scoring a controversial opener.

Saints claimed a foul as Kevin McAllister shot into the empty net after Hamilton was challenged by Sammy McGivern. Falkirk added a second three minutes later when Eddie May knocked home a McAllister cross.

Saints fought back with a soft Mark Treanor penalty in 40 minutes, but then came

that Stainrod shocker.

Substitute Allan Moore headed a second with four minutes left.

Angry Saints boss Alex Totten said: "We were shocking. We got what we deserved."

BEST PLAYER: Stainrod.

ST JOHNSTONE: Hamilton, Treanor, Baltacha, McGinnis, Inglis, Cherry, Maskrey, Turner, Wright, Redford, Curran.

FALKIRK: Westwater, Duffy, McQueen, Hughes, Baptie, May, McAllister, Taylor, McGivern, Stainrod, Smith.

Knocks

Only black spots for Walter Smith were calf knocks to strikers Johnston and Hateley.

But they, along with Ally McCoist, should be OK for Wednesday's Skol Cup semi-final against Hibs.

BEST PLAYER: McCall.

ST MIRREN: Fridge, McGowne, Reid, Aitken, Martin, Manley, McIntyre, Lambert, Irvine, Ferguson, Baillie.

RANGERS: Goram, Stevens, D. Robertson, Gough, Spackman, Nisbet, McCall, Durrant, Hateley, Johnston, Huijstra.



ANDY GORAM

ABSW BEST FOR SOCCER ACTION

**ARSENAL 5
SHEFF UTD 2**
ROCK-bottom
Sheffield United were the latest victims of revitalised Arsenal, who have scored 15 goals in their last three games.

They were four down at the interval and looked out of their class.

United never knew what hit them once Alan Smith followed up his four midweek European goals to shoot Arsenal ahead in the 12th

Gunners run riot

minute.

When keeper Simon Tracey pushed out a Kevin Campbell shot, Smith was lurking to whack home the rebound.

Three minutes later, Michael Lake handled and Lee Dixon, who missed a penalty against Austrian Vien-

na — slotted in the spot kick.

Arsenal got a spectacular third after only 25 minutes, Perry Groves driving in a superb Winterburn cross.

It was 4-0 in the 33rd minute, Groves gave David Rocastle plenty of time and space to scoop the ball over

Tracey.

Tony Agana pulled one back from an acute angle in the second half.

But it didn't take Arsenal long to regain command. Campbell got the goal he deserved after being sent clear by sub Michael Thomas.

BEST PLAYER: Campbell.

ARSENAL: Seaman, Dixon, Winterburn, Campbell, Linighan, Adams, Rocastle, Davis, Smith, Merson, Groves.

SHEFF UTD: Tracey, Wilder, Whitehouse, Lake, Gayle, Pemberton, Bryson, Hoyland, Agana, Deane, Hedges.



ALAN SMITH

Four-goal Gary joins the club

**WIMBLEDON 3
TOTTENHAM 5**

GARY LINEKER joined English football's fashionable four-goal club last Saturday.

Lineker went on the rampage at the end of a week which featured similar scoring feats from Dean Saunders and Alan Smith in European football.

It brought his League total to 11 goals in seven games, an astonishing start to the season even by his remarkable standards.

Lineker scored two goals, one from the penalty spot, in the first half and followed up with two more in 10 minutes after the break.

Vinny Samways hit Spurs' other goal and Wimbledon responded with a John Fashanu penalty and two comeback goals from sub Alan Cork and striker Mickey Bennett.

Spurs' young keeper Ian Walker, criticised for their European defeat in Austria, was an inspiring, courageous presence in the face of Fashanu's well-muscled aggression.

BEST PLAYER: Lineker.

WIMBLEDON: Segers, Joseph, Phelan, Barton, Scales, Fitzgerald, Bennett, Clarke, Fashanu, Ryan, McGee.

TOTTENHAM: Walker, Bergson, Van Den Hauwe, Nayim, Sedgely, Mabbutt, Stewart, Durie, Samways, Lineker, Allen.



MARK HUGHES

HAZARD HICCUP

WOLVES 2 SWINDON 1

MICKEY HAZARD was forced to shoulder the blame as Swindon's recent revival ground to a disappointing halt.

The former Tottenham midfield star could only hang his head in shame after missing the first-half penalty that condemned Swindon to their second away defeat of the season.

It was cruel blow for Glenn Hoddle's rapidly

improving side, who had climbed to third in the Second Division before this game.

They should have earned at least a point following a storming second-half fightback, but lack of penetration in front of goal proved their undoing.

Swindon found themselves trailing after only eight minutes.

Their defence was left flat-footed following a left-wing corner from Paul Birch and un-

marked Tim Steele converted the easiest of chances from just five yards.

The setback sparked Swindon into life and they should have drawn level 11 minutes later.

Wolves' full-back Kevin Ashley pulled down Swindon's Nicky Summerbee in the box and gave Hazard the chance to grab his sixth goal of the season.

But his weak spot-kick was easily saved by Mike Stowell.

With Hoddle driving them on from his sweeper position, Swindon laid siege to the Wolves goal before half-time.

But Duncan Shearer and Steve White both squandered good chances.

And they were made to pay for those misses when Steve Bull grabbed his sixth of the season after 78 minutes, beating Micky Hammond with a rising shot.

Swindon grabbed a White consolation three minutes from time, but it was too late.

Misery for MacDonald

**WALSALL 3
HEREFORD 0**

WALSALL cruised to victory despite having ex-Liverpool midfielder Kevin MacDonald sent off in the 28th minute for dissent.

His dismissal sparked Walsall into action and they took a 31st minute lead through Chris Marsh.

Ten minutes later Colin Anderson bagged the second. Anderson's corner 11 minutes after the break led to Paul McLoughlin heading the third.

BEST PLAYER: Anderson.

Young Hull hero

HULL CITY 4 TORQUAY UTD 1

STUART YOUNG, Hull's bargain buy from Arsenal, wrecked lacklustre Torquay to give his side a much needed point.

Young, signed on a free transfer, scored his second goal in three games and made the second for Dave Walmsley.

Torquay, who have lost seven out of eight League games, were in disarray but came back with Darren Rowbotham's 44th-minute penalty.

Second-half goals for Dave Norton and Walmsley killed them off.

**IPSWICH 4
BRISTOL CITY 2**

BRISTOL CITY were stunned by two goals in an explosive ending to this six-goal thriller.

Wayne Allison fired City ahead in the fourth minute, tucking away a rebound after his first shot struck the post.

Nine minutes before the break, City skipper Gary Shelton fouled Paul Goddard.

Flew

From the free kick, Steve Whitton touched the ball to left back Neil Thompson who rifled home an amazing 25-yard drive.

City took a shock lead again 11 minutes into the second half when Dave Smith's 40-yard free kick — intended as a cross — flew into the net.

Two minutes later, Ipswich striker Chris Kiwomya controlled the ball in the box, went

to turn defender Matt Bryant and ended up on the ground.

But Thompson was out of luck this time, keeper Keith Welch pushing his spot kick to safety.

Ipswich launched a frantic assault Jason Dozzell had a header cleared off the line. Then Thompson set up the equaliser.

His free kick was headed on by David Linighan, the ball struck the post and went into the net off the unfortunate City keeper.

Kiwomya rounded Welch to put Ipswich ahead four minutes from time.

Paul Goddard completed the damage with a 20-yard shot.

BEST PLAYER: Allison.
IPSWICH: Forrest, Johnson, Thompson, Stockwell, Yatlop, Linighan, Zondervan, Goddard, Whitton, Dozzell, Kiwomya.

BRISTOL CITY: Welch, Llewellyn, Scott, May, Bryant, Casper, Shelton, Rennie, Allison, Connor, Smith.

STEVE HODGE ended Leeds' embarrassing jinx and struck what could be a vital blow in the title race.

Leeds had waited 18 years to know what it was like to beat Liverpool and the little midfielder's 25th-minute strike was enough to deliver the moment they savoured.

There was no doubt Howard Wilkinson's men earned the triumph. They couldn't have caught Graeme Souness's team at a better time, weakened by injury and suspension.

And the Anfield men were further hurt when reserve centre back Nicky Tanner hobbled painfully out of the action after 35 minutes.

Souness's frustration with it all showed when he was ticked off by referee George Courtney.

It came as Liverpool desperately rallied after half-time. Sub Carl Shutt hammered the ball into the crowd to waste precious time and Souness exploded in anger.

The Spennymoor head teacher, who booked Hodge, David Batty and David Burrows, looked like adding the boss's name but finally contented himself with a headmasterly ticking off.

Not even Liverpool's supersub Ronny Rosenthal could turn the tide this time. It wasn't until the 86th minute that Liverpool even put a shot on target.

That was delivered by Dean Saunders who was unmercifully booted every time he got the ball for rejecting Leeds in the summer.

Leeds were only denied a bigger triumph by Bruce Grobbelaar's astounding close range save from Gordon Strachan.

Grobbelaar was a vital weapon whenever Leeds dropped the ball near Lee Chapman's tanky frame.

And the keeper handled the tough job well until he came for and missed, Strachan's free kick.

When Chapman lobbed for the empty goal, Grobbelaar was saved by Tanner's header off the line.

Liverpool had done little more than look pretty in patches before Leeds deservedly went ahead.

Strachan, weaving



LEEDS 1 LIVERPOOL 0

only gave it straight to Gary McAllister.

The keeper would have been caught out if Mark Walters hadn't got back fast to whip the ball off McAllister's toe.

Trouble

Liverpool hit more trouble when Tanner limped off. That meant a rebuild defence with sub Steve Harkness as left back and Steve Nicol in the middle.

Liverpool made nothing until near the break.

Then a Steve McManaman near-post header landed on top of the Leeds net.

BEST PLAYER: Strachan.

LEEDS: Lukic, Sternland, Dorigo, Batty, McClelland, Whyte, Strachan, Hodge, Chapman, McAllister, Speed.

LIVERPOOL: Grobbelaar, Ablett, Burrows, Nicol, Marsh, Tanner, Saunders, Houghton, Rush, Walters, McManaman.

past tackles from the right looked like going all the way until his shot was deflected wide of goal.

But when the little Scot delivered a near post corner, Grobbelaar could only half-punch away to Tony Dorigo.

The ball slid to the right and Liverpool were wide open to Hodge's killing 10-yard shot.

It could have been worse. Grobbelaar once took the ball off Gary Speed's foot way out on the right, but



STEVE HODGE: momentous goal.

HODGE IS RED HOT!

Happy day for Cross!

BRISTOL ROVERS 2 OXFORD UNITED 1

STEVE CROSS hit the winner on his home debut to give Rovers their first win of the season.

The £75,000 arrival from Derby County chipped the ball into the top corner after 66 minutes to give manager Martin Dobson a rare taste of victory.

The three points lifted Rovers off the foot of the Second Division and sent Oxford to the bottom.

But there was bad news for Dobson, who saw former skipper Vaughan Jones stretchered off with a broken leg just EIGHT SECONDS into his comeback.

The 32-year-old defender was rushed to hospital after clashing with Oxford's on-loan signing Trevor Aylott.

Rovers, fielding their eighth different side in as many games, took the initiative.

Speedy striker Carl Saunders shaved keeper Paul Kee's post after sneaking in on Devon White's flick.

Smartly

Then Rovers keeper Brian Parkin had to save from close range to deny Aylott.

Home defender Ian Alexander went close with a 25-yard effort.

Andy Melville should have put Oxford ahead in the 27th minute but Alexander smartly cleared off his line.

Oxford's breakthrough came after 35 minutes when they caught Rovers' defence napping and Dave Penney hit through Parkin's legs.

But spirited Rovers battled back and were level three minutes later through Alexander.

His shot from the edge of the penalty box split Oxford's defensive wall and found the corner of the Kee's net.

BEST PLAYER: Cross.

Roger's a dodger

SHREWSBURY 0 SWANSEA 0

SHREWSBURY bass John Bond won't want to see the likes of keeper Roger Freestone too often.

In his third game for the Swans, the burly keeper — on loan from Chelsea — made a double hat-trick of brilliant saves.

The finest were his reflex fingertip save from Neil Lyne, just before the break, and his second half flick over from Dean Spink's superb header. With three minutes left, Swans' Andy Legg fired wide.

BOURNEMOUTH keeper Vince Bartram kept high-power Huddersfield at bay to earn a 0-0 away draw. He made great stops from Kieran O'Regan, Phil Starbuck and Iwan Roberts.

Right back Kevin Bond and central defenders Mark Morris and Alec Watson were outstanding, but up front Bournemouth never had a shot on target.

MART'S MISERY

SAVE TURNS THE TIDE!

PLYMOUTH 1 MIDDLESBROUGH 1

A BRILLIANT penalty save by Steve Pears turned the game for Second Division pacesetters Boro.

Struggling Plymouth hustled and hustled but could not quite pull it off.

There can be no complaints about Martin Barlow's spot kick. The

young winger hit it low and wide, but Pears went full stretch to punch away.

Then for the first time in the match Middlesbrough got their act together, hit an equaliser and finished the stronger.

But their defence was given a harrowing time from the kick-off and cracks began to appear.

Poor clearances allowed Dwight Marshall in

Dale's a City slicker

CARDIFF CITY 2 SCARBOROUGH 1

STRIKER Carl Dale saved City from yet another disappointing draw with a superb goal in the dying minutes of the game.

Despite rocketing into the lead after just two minutes, through winger Pat Hard, Cardiff threw away a host of opportunities with a series of misplaced shots.

Scarborough had looked bewildered after being subjected to 10 minutes of sparkling

football — but they soon bounced back and, after 31 minutes, John Ashdjian claimed their equaliser.

But top scorer Dale took his tally to four goals this season after side-stepping home a neat cross from Cohen Griffith to ensure City grabbed full points.

Wonder of Wimbiston

PETERBOROUGH 1 EXETER 1

IT was a tale of two penalties at Peterborough.

Exeter missed, Posh scored but both the first-half decisions by Southend referee David Axcell were bizarre.

When Exeter were presented with their 10th-minute spot-kick Peterborough defenders were appealing for a free-kick.

Noel Luke was adjudged to have handled and Paul Wimbiston struck the ball well but Peterborough keeper Fred Barber saved brilliantly.

Peterborough's penalty was just as curious. Exeter skipper Tom Kelly and Ken Charlery jumped for a centre.

Charlery went down following a glancing contact and there was Mr Axcell pointing to the spot yet again for Mick Hall to score.

Wimbiston made up for his penalty failure with a superb individual goal to level matters after 54 minutes.



SACKED

Bury stop Milne trial

RALPH MILNE has been sacked by Bury.

He got the boot just days after he revealed how Manchester United players were involved in drugs, drink and brawl incidents before the European Cup-Winners' Cup fi-

nal win against Barcelona last May.

The 30-year-old Scot believes he's paying the price for daring to tell his exclusive story.

Milne's month's trial has been ended after two weeks and he said at the weekend: "I knew the knife was in and Mike Walsh told

me that United were good neighbours of Bury's."

Walsh said: "The reason I got rid of him was because he wasn't good enough."

"Alex Ferguson did phone me, but we didn't discuss the story. All he wanted was Ralph's telephone

number. United are good neighbours, but there has been no pressure from them over Ralph."

Milne refuses to identify the players involved in the drugs and ticket touting stories he spoke about last week.

*Ralph Milne tells it all to ABSW on pages 26 and 27.

LEEDS LOSE £7 MILLION

BUT CLUB TELLS WILKO: CARRY ON SPENDING

LEEDS have lost a whopping £7 million in just three years.

That's the massive price they've had to pay to book a place in the Super League and launch an assault on Arsenal's title.

But chairman Leslie Silver revealed at the weekend there was no pressure from the club's bankers, Barclays, to apply a break on spending.

Shareholders will learn from the balance sheet later this year that after finishing fourth in the club's first season back in Division One, Leeds lost over £2 million.

That's an improve-

ment on the record £3 million shortfall in 1989.

But the Board's spend, spend, spend policy has plunged Leeds deep into the red.

PROFIT

Figures for 12 months up to July 31 this year are with the club's accountants.

They show a trading profit of over £1 million, massively wiped out

That was the road we decided to take when Howard Wilkinson became our manager three years ago and when you look at the First Division table you can see our policy is bearing fruit."

Marjason added: "Income to be expected from a Super League is enormous and our big sponsorship deal with Admiral starts next season so the future looks rosy."

The Admiral deal guarantees Leeds £7 million over five years.

Bonuses could lift the payout to £10 million.

Since taking over from Billy Bremner at Elland Road, Wilkinson has spent £10,415,000 on transfers and hauled in £4,115,000.

THIS WEEK ON SBS

YOUR SOCCER STATION

Saturday, September 28

* World Soccer — 5.30pm

* Main matches: Lens v St Etienne — French First Division game featuring Lens' Australian international midfielder Robbie Slater.



Sunday, September 29

* Italian Soccer — 10.30am

* One hour reviewing last weekend in the highly acclaimed Italian league. Features a main match and all the goals in the First Division.



European Football — 11.30am

* Main match: Goteborg v Norrkoping — top of the table Swedish First Division action.



TONY DORIGO - Leeds' expensive Aussie-born defender.

KEEP GOING FOR MORE BIG EURO SOCCER NEWS